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Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian Plan for Mission to Iraq Founders

PM2711123990 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Nov 90 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Arab Leaders Refuse To Visit Baghdad Before Withdrawal From Kuwait"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed sources in Cairo that Algeria proposed the formation of a delegation comprising Arab leaders to visit Baghdad and meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in a new Arab bid to persuade him to settle the crisis peacefully and withdraw his forces from Kuwait. The sources said that the Algerian proposal was presented to a number of Arab leaders but did not get enough support, especially because of the lack of sufficient guarantees from Baghdad that it would respond to the demands which the Arab leaders delegation would carry with them to Saddam Husayn.

The sources pointed out that a number of the Arab leaders to whom the proposal was presented informed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that they were not prepared to visit Baghdad so long as the Iraqi forces were occupying Kuwait, since such a visit would be tantamount to giving their blessing to Saddam Husayn's occupation.

Maghreb Mediterranean Security Conference Ends

LD2811125190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The first Maghreb conference on Mediterranean security ended this evening after a three-day continuous debate with a final communique. The final communique was read out by a rapporteur of the conference, (Ma'el-Ain Djbaili)

[Begin (Djbaili) recording] The Maghreb conference on Mediterranean security was held in Algiers from 9 to 11 Jamad al-'Awwal 1411 AH, corresponding to 25-27 November 1990, in accordance with the recommendation passed by the meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] defense ministers.

The meeting was distinguished by objectivity and openness during a constructive debate which sought to come to a new understanding of the concept of Maghreb security, and specify the threats aimed at it, in a atmosphere of complete awareness and responsibility.

The members of the Maghreb delegations—both military and civilian experts—dwelt on a comprehensive and accurate analysis of the problems raised in the security field at three levels:

1. The effect of changes taking place in East Europe and the two military alliances on Mediterranean security.
2. The connection of the Middle East crises with Mediterranean stability.
3. Visualizing a stand of the AMU toward security issues in the Mediterranean.

This document seeks to summarize the basic ideas which have been defined during the reviews and debates and study them within the framework of the Maghreb direction. The first point: The effect of the European changes on Mediterranean security. The causes which led to the end of communist parties' domination and the disintegration of the economy of East Europe resulted from the Soviet Union's revision of its strategic objectives due to the economic and social deterioration of the East bloc.

The legacies of this change emerge through the radical reorganization of Europe, and they are characterized by the end of the Cold war, disarmament initiatives, and reexamination of the security concept.

The interim stage has a new feature in which the complete economic and technological support for the East European states is carried out at the expense of all others. The new hazards manifested in Asian economic pressure and the African [word indistinct] and fears of the effects of the Islamic resurgence have pushed Europe toward adopting unified stands to confront all eventualities.

Reactions in this connection have been taking a security aspect aimed at coordination in the military fields—land, sea, and air—and observing borders in order to check non-military dangers like terrorism, clandestine emigration, and drug trafficking. Coordinating efforts in all these fields have pushed the Europeans toward giving a new character and efficacy to the organization of the CSCE, turning it into a transitional framework for what the recession of militarism (?has led to), the reformation of NATO under U.S. pressure and deterioration of the Warsaw Pact which is [word indistinct] reducing the Soviet military arsenal.

Deciding European security affairs inside the CSCE brought a change in the type of rivalry as manifested in the U.S.-Soviet dialogue over their treatment of the reunified Germany and [words indistinct] in regard to the treatment of security issues in Europe.

The second point: the link between the Middle East crises and Mediterranean security. The eastern part of the Mediterranean has been going through troubles [words indistinct] having negative effects on the western parts of the Mediterranean because of the numerous cultural, political, and social bonds which exist between the AMU countries and the Arab East that make it incumbent on the AMU to assume—by virtue of its relations with the Arab and Islamic world in particular—its responsibilities concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The need for playing an active role in devising Arab-Arab solutions [word indistinct] from the big powers' arsenals in the Middle East causes, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese questions, in addition to avoiding the outbreak of a devastatng war in the Gulf.

Despite the absence of any regional justification in the eastern Mediterranean, the basic element lies in the question of Israel—which is bolstered by the West and shares the same strategic objectives—striking at Arab entities and breaking their ranks with a view to dominate their oil wealth.

The third point: The AMU attitude toward security issues of the Mediterranean. The AMU's Mediterranean position makes it incumbent on it to take into consideration the need for cooperation with the northern part and for safeguarding the security and safety of the region while adopting a unified Maghreb vision based on the supremacy of the freedom of the AMU countries.

There is need for coordination within the AMU for the attainment of security objectives vis-a-vis challenges and finding successful remedies for economic and social problems and internal contradictions, with a view to attaining nationality and realism and doing away with the causes of conflicts and thereby overcome selfishness and isolation. Coordination work within the framework of the [words indistinct] in the field of education and industry [words indistict] and the drawing up of a strategy based on the encouragement of the teaching staff to [words indistinct].

The need for the development of security concepts through a Maghreb perspective—in the field of dealing with the EC, particularly the Meterranean members of the EC—in order to achieve an honorable cooperation without [word indistinct] or condition, in which sovereignty and dignity are respected [words indistinct] political, social, and economic choices.

The [words indistinct] through the coordination of efforts and the drawing up of a comprehensive defensive policy that in the short term would seek the unification of security concepts, the exchange of military know-how and security information, the exchange of visits, and the staging of joint military maneuvers.

From an African dimension it is necessary to take into consideration the fact that the AMU pursues a coordinated policy of constructive cooperation with other countries bordering on AMU member countries.

The development of the AMU as a peace [words indistinct] commanding respect of all [word indistinct] turning the Mediterranean into a lake of peace in which arms are prohibited, as is happening now in the European arena. [end recording]

GCC Ministerial Council Meeting Postponed

JN2511104790 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, Nov 24 (GNA)—GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Mr Sayf Bin-Hashil al-Maskari said that a meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council scheduled to be held in Doha today has been postponed.

The meeting was to prepare the agenda of the GCC's 11th summit conference due to be held in Doha on December 22.

Al-Maskari told QATAR NEWS AGENCY that the postponement of the meeting had been decided at the request of some member states whose foreign ministers wanted to attend a United Nations Security Council session to debate a possible resolution sanctioning the use of military force against Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

The Qatari newspaper 'AL-SHARQ' said today the GCC Ministerial Council meeting has been postponed because the foreign ministers of some member states had other functions to do and thus would not be able to attend the meeting to be held next week.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Calls for UN Protection for Palestinians

LD2811225690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Nov (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has called for the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people, the realization of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories, and placing them under temporary United Nations mandate.

In a statement released today by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamed Alghabed on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, which will be marked tomorrow, Thursday [29 November], the ICO calls for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their firm and inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of their sole representative, the state of Palestine.

The statement reviews the Israeli refusal to submit to international legitimacy, the Israeli authorities' perpetration of more massacres, their violation of human rights, and the creation of material and demographic obstacles to obstruct the possibilities of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The statement says: The process of forced emigration of Soviet Jews and others to occupied Palestine comes within this context, and is meant to create the demographic and geographic conditions for Israel's expansionist extension into Arab territories and the establishment of the so-called greater Israel.

The ICO points to recent statements by Yitzhaq Shamir in which he calls for settling Jews and new Jewish emigrants in occupied Palestine, and maintaining the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to realize the so-called land of greater Israel. The ICO warns against the danger of these statements, and states that the continued influx of emigrants points to the occupation of the land of others and its defiance

regarding the sentiments of the Islamic nation. It stresses that those statements constitute an obstacle to reaching any just political settlement in the region, and that they threaten world security and peace.

The statement stresses that the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties, including the state of Palestine and the UN Security Council's permanent members, is the right framework for achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region. It says: The struggling Palestinian people, who are continuing their blessed intifadah which is soon to enter its fourth year, are turning toward the international community and all peace and justice-loving forces to stand by their just struggle so that they may be able to regain their inalienable national rights and exercise sovereignty over their land.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cites UN 'Double Standards' on Arabs

JN3011103690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of "world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people", by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What does the Palestinian president have to say on the world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people?

['Arafat] I say to our Palestinian people that despite all the hard times we—the Palestinian people and the Arab nation—are experiencing, especially the Gulf crisis which poses an overwhelming threat to the entire Arab region and world peace and security, all this uproar and all this drum-beating can not obscure the Palestine question which continues to be at the heart of the problems in the region, and not only the Arab region but the entire Middle East. The hurricane we previously referred to has two eyes—one in the Gulf and another in Palestine. There can only be one cohesive solution to all the region's problems in the Gulf, Lebanon, the Golan, and Jerusalem. The center and core of this solution should be the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Nobody can obscure the sun with his hands. This is a clear fact that cannot be changed by Bush, his ally Shamir, or any of his allies. In spite of everything, victory is coming and the dawn is imminent. A stone-throwing Palestinian child—one of the new generals—will hoist the Palestinian flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem soon, God willing. This flag is not only the Palestinian flag, it is flag of the entire Arab nation, the flag of the Islamic nation, the flag of Muslims and Christians.

[Reporter] What is your comment on the postponement of the deliberations of the UN General Assembly and Security Council on the Palestine question and the situation in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] I pose this question to all those who claim to be concerned about the international legitimacy, rights, and interests. I want to tell them: For four weeks we have been trying to assemble the Security Council to examine the Israeli crimes, massacres, and attacks on Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine. I tell them that all this has absolutely failed to gain the attention of these states, especially the U.S. Administration. Meanwhile they understand international legitimacy only where oil and oil sources are concerned. I tell them: If oil is precious to them, the Islamic and Christian holy places are more precious than oil. I tell them that Palestinian blood is more precious than oil. These practices expose the true picture of matters and conspiracies. They reveal that there is a double standard [preceding two words in English] for international legitimacy and international resolutions. They use double standards for what takes place in the Arab region.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Excellency the Palestinian president, for this interview.

'Text' of 'Arafat Letter to UN Committee

LD2911224290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 90

["Text" of letter from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to participants in the ceremony of solidarity held on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people organized by the UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, at the United Nations on 29 November—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] Your excellency, Absa Claude Diallo, chairperson of the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, members of the meeting; greetings of the revolution: On the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29 November 1990, it pleases me to address to you all, the chairperson, members, and dignified guests, on behalf of our struggling Palestinian people inside our occupied Palestinian land and wherever they may be, and also on behalf of my brothers, members of the PLO executive committee, and on my own behalf, the best fraternal greetings, thanking you for your invitation to me to attend this ceremony.

Dear sisters and brothers, you are meeting today on this international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people while our people in all the towns, villages, and camps of our occupied Palestinian land are marking the second anniversary of the proclamation of independence on 15 November; concluding the third year of its [word indistinct] popular and sweeping intifadah; and entering the fourth year of this blessed intifadah with the same determination, challenge, and insistence to continue the

march of its liberation struggle until the realization of its national objectives and the recovery and exercise of its national and inalienable rights, including its rights to return, to self-determination, and to set up its own independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

While continuing its just liberation struggle, our Palestinian people are looking toward your respected committee that represents the unanimity of the international community, and to the United Nations to support our people [words indistinct], and appreciating the important role played by the committee at the international level so that the voice of the just struggle of the Palestinian people seeking to recover [word indistinct] and national rights may be heard by the largest section of the effective and influential forces of the world public and politics.

Mr chairman and honorable attendants, during the past two years [passage indistinct]

In spite of this international unanimity and comprehensive welcome for the peaceful Palestinian initiative which opened the wide doors of hope for a just solution to the Arab-Israel conflict, regrettably Israel continues its intransigent policy aimed at obstructing the international peace process by rejecting international legitimacy and resolutions.

Regrettably, this Israeli policy met with support from the United States which started to present these Israeli schemes in various forms and guises until they were presented to us in the form of the well known five points in the name of James Baker.

In spite of that, we agreed to deal with it positively, but Israel rejected it in its memorandum to the United Nations, proving to the world that Israel rejects all constructive international efforts to find a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

At the same time, the Israeli campaigns of massacres and crimes against our Palestinian people have escalated at the hands of the Israeli army and settlers. In its turn, the United States suspended the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. By this it closed all the doors to any slight hope for peace.

At that time, the Middle East crisis escalated in an explosive way because of the tens of thousands of Jewish emigrants, the majority of whom came from the Soviet Union and who were settled in the occupied Palestinian territories. The region entered a race against time, and tension in its political, social, economic, and security situation escalated.

In this frenzied climate an Arab summit conference was held in Baghdad to face up to the Israeli and U.S. threats, to confront the dangers of the Jewish emigration, to preserve Arab national security, to study these situations, and to thwart their bad effects on all the region.

All Arabs realized the need for serious and quick action through the international community to call for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. But unfortunately the [word indistinct] of the United States and its deliberate bias in dealing with the Palestinian question, as well as the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, have created a hot and tense climate whose negative effects cannot be [word indistinct]. It is a climate that has no doubt contributed to the outbreak of another crisis, that of the Gulf. This climate will also be the cause of the outbreak of similar crises in the future if the international community fails to hasten to tackle the Palestinian problem in a just and quick manner.

Hence, we must understand the danger of the heinous Israeli massacres and crimes against our Palestinian people inside the occupied Palestinian territories while the world is preoccupied with the erupting Gulf crisis. The ugliest of these massacres was the one that took place in the holy al-Aqsa' mosque in Jerusalem in October 1990, and which was followed by other massacres n the occupied territories. Is this not clear evidence of the fact that the Israeli authorities are at this precise time deliberately pushing the situation toward a full explosion in the Middle East region? As usual, Israel has escalated massacres, official terror, and its continuous transgressions against and defiling of Christian and Islamic sanctities. Even more so, Israeli prime Minister Shamir affirmed his defiance of the international community, of UN resolutions, and of international law when he declared the intention to realize the greater Israel from the river Jordan to the sea, and to expand Jewish emigration there.

On his part, Ari'el Sharon stressed this policy when he said that Israel is building 15,000 housing units in eastern Jerusalem and in the other occupied Palestinian areas in order to house the Soviet Jewish immigrants and Judaize the holy city. Where is the eagerness for peace then? Where is the hope to realize it? Quite the contrary. We are witnessing the United States pretending to shed tears over international legitimacy and resolutions, and trying to accuse others of not observing them, while the United States is the one that stands as an obstacle before the march of peace in the Middle East region due to its positions which are pro-Israel and biased toward Israel, and because of its threats to Arab security and its attempts to play the role of a policeman in lieu of the United Nations and of its organs which should be bolstered so that they may be tools likely to realize international legitimacy and spread peace and security in the world. The United States was supposed to do this, and not just seek its oil and economic interests in the Gulf under a fallacious slogan of eargerness to uphold principles and international legitimacy at a time when the United States and those on its side are overlooking these principles of international legitimacy by protecting Israel, Israel's crimes, and the Israeli occupation.

How long can we allow the continuation of double standards in dealing with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and other international organizations? This is the blatant

imbalance created by the United States and those in its orbit. It prevented the UN Security Council from assuming its duties toward the situation in occupied Palestinian territories seven times during the period of the glorious uprising. Among these it used the right of veto six times, the latest of which was on 31 May when it prevented the sending of a committee composed of members of the UN Security Council or a mission of the secretary general to investigate the dangerous situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, despite the fact tht it was the one which proposed such a committee during the massacre of 'Ayn Qarah.

The United States is now resorting to tricks in order to prevent the adoption of any measure against Israel which violates international security and peace everyday and carries on perpetrating crimes and massacres against our people, including that of the holy mosque in Arab Jerusalem and those of the Gaza Strip and other crimes against our people everywhere. How can we wait for peace in the Middle East region as long as the United States plays the role of adversary and referee at the same time?

Despite the worsening of the situation because of these Israeli and U.S. policies and practices, the PLO is still committed to the Palestinian peace initiatives which it announced two years ago, considering that it is an embodiment of the peaceful will of our people and its eagerness for the establishment of a just peace in Palestine and in the Middle East region through the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, at the forefront of which is its right to self-determination with the participation of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned in the conflict—including the PLO and Israel—on an equal footing. This is what was agreed upon by the United Nations in its resolutions and by all the countries of the world apart from Israel with the support and encouragement of the United States.

Despite our concern to endeavor to find this just solution to the Palestinian cause, from the very beginning the PLO has not hesitated to put forward its viewpoint with bravery and far-sightedness with regard to the need to reach a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and to the Middle East issues under an international umbrella. For this reason we quickly put forward our ideas and views to the Arab summit conference which was held in Cairo, and we will continue our efforts afterwards with all the Arab brothers and the friends who believe in a peaceful solution in order to find a peceful solution to the Gulf crisis and to prevent a military confrontation, the consequences of which, if God forbid it takes place, will be disastrous not only for the region or those fighting each other. Its social, economic, military, human, and financial effects will touch all the regions of the world for many years.

We are in a race against time because of the options of peace and of war. Let us all work in order to avoid a catastrophe, to push forward the opportunities for peace, and to create a propicious atmosphere for engaging in a constructive dialogue that will lead us to a peaceful settlement of the [word indistinct] serious crisis. This is all the more important since there has appeared a consensus at the international, Arab, and local levels over the need for such initiatives, ideas, and constructive efforts. This was clear in the positions of French President Mitterrand and of Gorbachev; in that of the EEC; the Soviet-European communique; the position of China, Japan, other Islamic, African, and nonaligned states; and even inside the United States itself.

This is a source of hope in order to avoid the disaster of war and to address all the problems of the region—the Gulf, the Middle East, and the Palestinian problem—in a way that will preserve the rights of all, as well as the dignity and interests of all. This is a matter that we stressed in our initiatives that had been declared and conveyed to a number of members of the United Nations and the UN Security Council, and also to the UN secretary-general.

If events in the region do not totally coincide, they are surely linked; one cannot tackle one of them in isolation of the others. Nor can one promise to resolve some of them when the dark clouds of danger loom, and forget them when storms temporarily calm down due to measures that soothe the nerves, to not deal with the cause of pain at its roots and not tackle the problems in a fundamental way.

Peace in the Middle East region begins in Palestine, war begins in Palestine, and the hurricane in all the region will remain so long as the Arab-Israeli conflict exists. This is our guide, and there is no other guide to show us the way or help us tackle the crisis of the Middle East in a way which guarantees security, stability, and peace there. The Middle East countries will thus take up their place and role in the international community as countries eager to secure security and stability for the present and future of mankind. [passage omitted]

Saddam, 'Arafat Dispute Over Kuwait Discussed

PM2911163490 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Has It Ignited Between Abu-'Ammar and Saddam?]

[Text] Tunis, AL-ZAHIRAH—An informed Palestinian source in the Tunisian capital has revealed to AL-ZAHIRAH that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and PLO members have become undesirable figures for Baghdad and Iraqi regime circles because of a sharp disagreement between the two sides stemming from Saddam's charge that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has not backed him steadfastly in consolidating his occupation of Kuwait. The source said that Saddam has insistently asked Abu-'Ammar and his colleagues, Fatah leaders, and the other

Palestinian leaders that support him—such as Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Nayif Hawatimah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—to promptly urge their organizations among Palestinians residing in Kuwait to stage street demonstrations in Kuwait in support of Saddam so as to make the world public think that the Kuwaiti people are satisfied with the occupation.

The source said that Saddam was not ready to accept the apology of the Palestinian leadership that faces strong and increasing opposition to its stance on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait from the various Palestinian groups, and especially from Palestinians living in Kuwait who were the first to be harmed by the invasion.

The informed source said that the statements supporting the official Kuwaiti position and demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait—made by Palestinian leaders such as PLO second-in-command Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], National Fund Chairman Juwayd Ghusayn, and others—prompted Saddam to believe that 'Arafat was looking for a way to backtrack from his position. In fact some Iraqi officials whispered to their Palestinian colleagues that Saddam believed that 'Arafat was responsible for these statements and that they were made with his knowledge.

Algeria

'International Court' To Try Bush 10 Dec

LD2911205390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] [Studio announcer] Allow me to introduce to you, as on every Thursday, the guest of this bulletin, Mr. Nabil Bouaita, who is too well-known now to be presented. Mr. Bouaita, good morning. You are a member of the court which intends to judge U.S. President George Bush for crimes against humanity, and this trial, I remind you, will take place in Algiers on 10, 11, and 12 December.

You are, in general, an antiracist lawyer. You were noticed in particular in the Klaus Barbie case, in the Benyahia, and Boucenna racist crimes in France, etc. You have pleaded many times in Africa, in Abdoulaye Wade's case in Senegal in particular. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, as you know, had been a political opponent of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. So one first question: Will the Algiers trial of George Bush be another Bertrand Russell trial of the Vietnam case, Mr. Nabil Bouaita?

[Bouaita] I thank you for receiving me in order to hear what I have to say on the trial. The organization of the trial and the trial itself are, intellectually, the offspring of the tradition of the peoples' permanent courts. This is to say simply that the Algiers international court resembles, as far as the law which will be applied and the method of organization are concerned, the Brussels' court, because it is first and foremost a court of opinion. It is a court of opinion in the sense that this court will be called upon to give its point of view during a meeting of famous lawyers on a current armed conflict.

Interior Ministry Comments

LD3011110290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpt] An Interior Ministry communique announced that the Ministry learned through the press of the possible convening of an international court to put on trial a head of a foreign state. It [the Ministry] emphasizes that such a move, whose real authors are not clearly known and whose aims remain obscure, is a task which poses problems of security of persons and has an effect on the sphere of the administration of foreign policy of the country. [passage omitted]

Ghozali Holds Talks With Belgian Counterpart

LD2911121190 Algiers APS in English 1039 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, 29/11/90 (APS)—The heads of Algerian and Belgian diplomacies Sid Ahmed Ghozali and Mark Eyskens held on Wednesday a tete a tete talks, developed later by members of delegations of the two countries. These talks were mainly centered upon bilateral relations, EEC (European Economic Community) UMA (Arab Maghreb Union) relations as well as current international issues particularly the situation in the Gulf.

The two parties reaffirmed on the occasion, the common will of Algeria and Belgium to reinforce their cooperation, which is already excellent, and expand it to all remaining unexplored fields. Within due regard to the two countries positions at EEC and UMA, the two delegations insisted upon the imperious necessity that Algeria and Belgium work in favor of developing dialogue between the two groups upon various topics related to their economic, political and human relations.

At the international level, the two ministers of foreign affairs, mainly tackled, among other matters, the situation in the Gulf and consequences of a probable escalation of tension.

Ghozali reaffirmed on this occasion, the attachment of Algeria to a negotiated solution and the refusal of any resort to military option, whose consequences may be disastrous for all peoples of the region as well as world peace.

For Eyskens, it is important to reinforce the blockade against Iraq and any recourse to force will be contemplated only after the exhaustion of all means of pressures that are able to oblige Iraq to renounce to Kuwait's annexation and respect the international will. It is worth noting that the Belgian minister of foreign affairs is on tour to Algeria on the occasion of the state visit, King Baudoin is paying to Algeria.

Egypt

Reaction to UN Security Council Resolution

AL-AKHBAR Editorial

NC3011030090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper today described the new UN Security Council resolution on the Gulf crisis, which was issued last night, as the "final ultimatum" for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The paper hopes Saddam will come to his senses and bow to the will of the international community before it is too late.

In its editorial, AL-AKHBAR calls for drawing the curtain on the tragedy of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, noting that the international community's patience vis-a-vis the crimes of the Iraqi regime in Kuwait has reached its limit.

The paper notes that since the first moments of the Iraqi crime against Kuwait, the international community has stood together and collectively condemned the Iraqi invasion, while the forces and fleets of various countries were massed in an unprecedented manner.

The paper adds, however, that the international community elected to wait, show restraint, and give the Iraqi "dictator" the chance to emerge from his predicament by withdrawing his troops from Kuwait. Nevertheless, the Iraqi ruler chose to defy the international will.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR stresses the need for the international community to work for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on Kuwait as soon as possible to end the tragedy which the Kuwaiti people and the entire world have been experiencing for four months.

Ghali Comments

NC3011102190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated today that the resolution that was adopted by the UN Security Council last night is a victory for the cause of peace and a contribution to the consolidation of international law.

Dr. Ghali said the resolution sends a clear signal to the Iraqi Government that it must withdraw from Kuwait, restore the legitimate status quo, and release the hostages in accordance with previous UN resolutions.

Dr. Ghali noted that the UN Security Council resolution corresponds with Egypt's principled stand that stresses the need to resolve the Gulf crisis within the framework of the UN resolutions.

Polling Committees Begin Counting Election Votes

NC2911193290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The counting of votes began a while ago in 222 general polling committees in the country to allocate the 444 seats of the new People's Assembly. The committees will be at work all night to produce the results of the elections.

The casting of votes ended at 1700 today and ballot boxes were then sealed and sent the general polling committees.

Several Wounded in Clashes

NC2911204690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1949 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The elections for the People's Assembly were held today throughout the Republic in an atmosphere of calm and commitment on the part of the voters and candidates to carry on the election process while preserving the rules of democracy and soundness, which President Husni Mubarak has been eager to establish since he assumed office.

Some constituencies, particularly in the countryside, were the scene of incidents involving some supporters of the candidates because of overenthusiasm and nervousness characteristic of the elections.

While elections proceeded peacefully in al-Jizah Governorate, the al-Darb al-Ahmar constituency in Cairo saw some quarrels among supporters of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and those of independent candidates. Police intervened to end these quarrels and no casualties were reported. [passage omitted]

In Bany Suwayf, two incidents were reported in which the supporters of the NDP and independent candidates exchanged fire, but the police managed to bring the situation under control. Major General Ibrahim Muhsin Sarhan, chief of security in Bany Suwayf, said that the first incident took place in the town of Biba among the supporters of Sa'd 'Abbud, an independent, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Mabruk from the NDP. The two sides exchanged fire, and a child named Mabruk Nafi' was wounded in the leg. The police brought the situation under control and dispersed the two sides. Two empty cartridges were found at the scene of the incident.

The second incident, he added, occurred in al-Fashn when supporters of NDP candidate 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fadil and independent candidate 'Abd-al-Mun'im Hulaysh exchanged fire. Four security men received various injuries as a result and were taken to the hospital, but their condition is satisfactory. The policemen managed to disperse the two sides and the elections proceeded normally.

In al-Fayyum Governorate, Security Chief Muhammad Mahran said the elections proceeded quietly and no significant incidents were reported. The turnout among the voters was good, with a percentage between 50 and 60 percent.

In the Fariskur constituency of Damietta Governorate, supporters of independent candidate Diya'-al-Din Dawud and NDP candidate Muhammad Khalil Quwaytah clashed after rumors that the NDP candidate had won the elections. The two sides exchanged fire, wounding a number of people. The police intervened to end the clash.

In another development, a clash took place between some citizens and policemen in Damietta in which three police officers and a number of citizens received various injuries. The policemen managed to bring the situation under control and the wounded were taken to Damietta central hospital.

Election-Related Violence Reported

NC2911200090 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP)—At least one person was killed and dozens were injured Thursday in various regions of Egypt as elections were held for a new parliament, witnesses said.

The worst violence occured in the northern province of Damietta just before the close of voting booths at 5.00 p.m. (1500 GMT)

Residents of the al-Rawdah village angrily took to the street outside a voting office to protest rumors that anti-riot security forces had rigged the urns in favour of a candidate from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), the witnesses said.

The candidate is one of 2,681 vying for 444 seats in the National Assembly (parliament) that is certain to be controlled by the NDP thanks to a boycott by most opposition groups. Another 10 parliamentarians will be appointed by President Husni Mubarak.

More than 15 million Egyptian are eligible to vote.

According to witnesses, contacted by telephone, the security forces initially fired tear gas grenades to disperse the crowds and then used live ammunition, killing one person and wounding dozens of others.

Disturbances were also reported in Cairo's central neighborhood of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar.

Witnesses there said that unidentified elements carrying walkie-talkies simultaneously entered six voting offices and attacked officials. Police failed to intervene.

According to some reports the assailants were police agents whose mission was to rig the urns with ballots in favour of a NDP candidate who was running for that district against an independent candidate.

Security forces were deployed in and around Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, where tension was running high.

Police also reported that unidentified gunmen opened fire at a vehicle owned by an NDP candidate in the Ismailiya region, wounding two of his supporters.

Egypt's previous parliament, elected in 1987, was dissolved by referendum on October 12 after a high court ruling that its members were elected under an unconstitutional electoral law.

'Text' of Mubarak Solidarity Day UN Address

NC2911155090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] New York, The United Nations, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egypt pursues a firm and clearly defined policy of demanding Israel's recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In an address to mark the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, President Mubarak emphasized that the Gulf crisis and its negative impact should not deter us from seeking a just and comrehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. Following is the text of President Mubarak's address:

Mrs. Chairwoman of the UN ad hoc committee on the unequivocal rights of the Palestinian people: I seize the opportunity of celebrating the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people to express to you, and to the members of your esteemed committee, the Egyptian Government and the people's appreciation of your sincere efforts in support of the Palestinian people's struggle. Your efforts embody the international community's determination to safeguard people's rights in a just and legitimate framework. These efforts also express the belief in the Palestinian people's need to exercise their fixed and legitimate rights, primarily their right to self-determination.

The anniversary of the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people overwhelms us with sorrow over the tragedy of these people, to whom some deny their basic rights and entitlement to lead a normal life as full-fledged members of the international community. However, the same anniversary establishes the fact that the continued Palestinian struggle over long years is a practical demonstration of the Palestinian rejection of the status quo which defies established laws and legitimacies. Today we reiterate our solidarity with this struggle; our categorical rejection of the fait accompli, occupation, and annexation policies; ands the expansionist schemes that are based on false rights and allegations.

The outbreak of the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories confirms that the Palestinian people's heroic struggle has not declined, that their faith has not weakened, and that the violent and oppressive practices of the occupation authorities have only helped cement this struggle and add to its glow. History shows that the people's struggle eventually defeats the short-sighted policy of occupation that thinks violence can resolve problems and can act as a substitute for direct confrontation. Violence and oppression undoubtedly inflict physical and psychological pain; however, they lead to further determination to realize the goals and make sacrifices for their sake.

Egypt is looking forward to the day when the Middle East is governed by a prospective view which has insight into the future instead of looking backward to the blind alleys of the past.

Egypt's firm and clearly defined policy will continue to demand that Israel recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and renounce the fantasies and desperate attempts to halt the wheel of history. These attempts are bound to destroy all efforts to bring about understanding and mutual recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli people and to pave the way for a constructive, peace-oriented dialogue that leads to a just and lasting peace.

The future envisaged by Egypt requires the collective support and backing of the international community. The United Nations organization was established in the wake of World War II as a true embodiment of hope in

a peaceful life and in upholding people's right to self-determination as one of their basic rights. The international community must insist on applying these principles and defending them in all the regions and continents in order to establish their universality.

Egypt has always asserted that a just and comprehensive peace can be established in the Middle East only if the Palestinian problem is settled because the persistence of the problem affects stability in the region as well as world peace and security.

The outbreak of the Gulf crisis and its negative impact should not deter us from seeking a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue. It is imperative to urge the international community to take active steps to revive the peace process and find a peaceful settlement of the issue on the basis of respect for the principles of international law, the UN Charter and resolutions, as well as the recognition of the Palestinian people's national and political rights.

Egypt trusts that the international community's shouldering of all its responsibilities will create a favorable atmosphere for launching a successful peace process in the region and working out a just and lasting settlement which provides security for all the nations of the region and enables them to dedicate their energies to reconstruction and development.

Finally, I would like to voice my gratitude for your esteemed committee, reiterating to you and to the committee members our support and backing for the valuable role you are playing.

Mubarak Congratulates UK's Major on Election

NC2911132890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to John Major, British prime minister and leader of the Conservative Party. The text of the cable is as follows: It gives me great pleasure to send you heartfelt congratulations on winning the leadership of the Conservative Party and the post of prime minister. I wish you continued success in assuming your prospective tasks. I am fully confident that you are capable of performing these tasks competently and firmly in view of the huge political and economic capabilities you possess. We look forward to working together to further enhance the strong and amicable relations between our two countries in their common interest and to serve the causes of security, peace, and stability in the world. With my best regards and wishes.

Interior Minister Terms Border Incident 'Isolated'

NC2911150790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that last Sunday's attack on some Israelis in an area near the Egyptian-Israeli border is an isolated incident and will not affect the course of peace between the two countries.

The interior minister said that in view of the long borders between Egypt and Israel, such incidents may occur. He noted that certain legal procedures are being followed with regard to the incident and that measures are being taken to prevent its repetition.

The interior minister, who was inspecting the People's Assembly election centers in Cairo today, answered a question by THE JERUSALEM POST correspondence by saying: Egypt is eager to press ahead with the peace process.

The minister said: We have sought peace of our own volition. The late President Anwar al-Sadat called for peace with Israel from the podium of the People's Assembly and he went to Israel to advocate peace.

The interior minister said that President Husni Mubarak is continuing the march of peace and is committed to Egypt's policy of seeking and maintaining peace.

Minister Discusses Size of Debts, Finance Policy

NC2911145090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has disclosed that the grants to Egypt by European and Arab countries as well as by international credit agencies totaled $1.236 billion this year. In addition, Egypt has received $1 billion in loans with favorable terms this year. The repayment period for some of these loans is as long as 30 years.

In a lecture delivered last night at the Diplomatic Institute, Dr. Makramallah said that current exchanges with creditor countries indicate that these countries wish to help Egypt reduce the burden of servicing its current debts. The volume of these debts is $28 billion after the cancellation of Egypt's military debts to the United States and other debts owed to some Arab countries.

Dr. Makramallah said that the restoration of Egypt's membership of the International Development Association [IDA] will allow Egypt to obtain loans on easy terms, namely with three to four percent interest and a grace period of 15 years.

Dr. Makramallah said that within the next few months the IDA is expected to provide Egypt with a loan of $70 million on easy terms. The loan will be earmarked for the establishment of a social fund for assisting the Egyptians returning from the Gulf and alleviating their problems.

Dr. Makramallah said that his ministry has recently been streamlining the practice of using external loans to finance development projects. The ministry, he said, is

taking into account the effect of the projects on the balance of payments and seeking to obtain the best terms for the loans it gets.

Dr. Makramallah said that external finance of projects is now confined to the foreign component and that local inputs are being financed locally. He noted that no loans are being approved unless they were for use in projects that are capable of generating enough income to service and repay the loans.

Libyan Official Arrives To Prepare for Meetings

NC2911185190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Mahmud Muhammad al-Hijazi, general secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Intergration with the Arab Republic of Egypt Affairs, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit to Egypt that will last for a few days.

When he arrived, the Libyan official said the purpose of his visit is to attend the preparatory meetings of the Egpytian-Libyan higher joint committee whose job is to promote cooperation between the two countries in industrial, trade, agricultural, and other fields. He added that a number of various issues will be discussed and some recommendations will be proposed and submitted to the Egyptian-Libyan higher joint committee that co-chaired by the two countries' prime ministers.

Dr. Maurcie Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, who received the Libyan official at the airport, said the preparatory meetings will convene on Saturday and Sunday. An expanded meeting attended by representatives from the various sectors in which there is cooperation between the two countries will be held on Monday, he concluded.

Somali Opposition To Boycott Meeting Denied

NC2811130690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Abdallah Hassan Mahmud [name as received], Somali ambassador in Cairo, has affirmed that five Somali opposition factions announced that they will take part in the national reconciliation conference scheduled to be held in Cairo on 11 December.

The Somali envoy denied news agency reports that the opposition will not participate in the meeting, adding that the Somali National Movement, which demands the separation between the north and the south, is the only group that declared their rejection of the meeting. He noted that the remaining opposition movements demand the implementation of democracy in the country, and that the Somali Government has already taken several steps in that direction.

He added that Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Adam [name and title as received] will pay an official two-day visit to Cairo on Friday at the invitation of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He added that the talks will center on strengthening bilateral cooperation and relations, the Gulf crisis, and the situation in Somalia.

Polish Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs

NC3011091290 Cairo MENA in English 0801 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 30 (MENA)—A Polish delegation led by the Polish deputy foreign minister left here today following a two day visit to Egypt.

The deputy foreign minister held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the Gulf crisis and relations between Egypt and Poland.

The Polish official during the talks expounded his country's foreign policy, stressing Poland's interest in Egypt's role as an important element of balance in the area.

Sudan

Source Says Armed Chadians Not Allowed Refuge

EA3011073090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 November (SUNA)—A highly-placed official source is quoted by today's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI as saying that the Armed Forces would not permit any armed Chadian to enter Sudanese territory unless he was a peaceful political refugee. There are reports saying that the Chadian opposition has brought many areas in [word indistinct] eastern (?Chad) under its control, having taken over the Chadian area of al-Tinah, Absha Jihan al-Rayy.

The Chadian ambassador in Paris has said President Habre is still in control of the country.

Khartoum-Run 'Assassination Teams' Alleged

PM2911152390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Nov 90 p 1

[Sa'idah Ramadan report: "Three Sudanese Groups To Assassinate Opponents Abroad"]

[Text] Sudanese sources in Cairo have emphasized—according to information from circles close to the leaders of the military council in Khartoum—the formation of three assassination teams. And it has been decided to send them abroad to liquidate opposition leaders residing in Cairo, Jeddah, and Addis Ababa who are opposed to the military regime.

AL-WAFD has learned that the security organs in Cairo have cautioned Sudanese opposition elements about attempts by the military council's agents.

Mahdi Ibrahim, member of the [National Islamic] Front and the official in charge of security on its 40-man council, arrived in Cairo some time ago accompanied by two people from the Sudanese security organ and an Arab figure.

Rebels Accuse Authorities of Beating Reporter

EA2911104290 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The security authorities of the soldiers of the National Islamic Front [NIF] last week beat the reporter (Siddiq al-Sadiq al-Zayn), who works for one of the Gulf newspapers, on his arrival at Khartoum airport from Doha, Qatar on his annual leave, in front of the arriving travelers until his blood flowed. It is worth mentioning that the military authorities are alarmed at increasing condemnation from world information organs which have taken a stand against the repressive and irresponsible practices of the NIF government soldiers, namely, the violation of human rights, detention, torture, dismissal, and expulsion from service of every patriot who stands against the injustice of the front and its soldiers. The reporter (Siddiq al-Sadiq) was led to an unknown place.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, 'Arafat Discuss Gulf Settlement

LD2911140790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at Carthage presidential palace this morning. Mr. Mohamed Jeri, minister-director of the presidential office; and Mr. Hakam Bal-'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee, were also present.

Following the audience, Mr. 'Arafat made a statement in which he expressed his thanks to the president for the audience accorded to him on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. He said: This is a brotherly and blessed gesture to be added to the gestures of Tunisia, its president, and people toward their brothers, the Palestinian militants, and to their blessed intifadah.

The Palestinian president indicated that the meeting was also an opportunity to discuss issues of the Arab and Islamic nations, particularly the Gulf crisis, and its serious repercussions not only against Iraq or the Gulf but also against the whole Arab nation.

In this connection, he stated that today at the UN [words indistinct] which would be a form of warning against brotherly Iraq. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat also pointed out that he discussed with His Excellency the president the importance of intensifying moves on the Arab, Islamic, or Nonaligned Movement levels to removing the threat of war and reach a common vision to confront the serious situation facing the Arab nation. This needs the cooperation of everyone if it is to be overcome for the sake of Arab order, pan-Arab security, the Palestinian cause, and future generations.

Kuwaiti Minister on Relations, Gulf Crisis

LD2911182990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Sulayman al-Mutaww'a, planning minister of the state of Kuwait, said at a press conference in Tunis last night that the brotherly and cooperative relations existing between Tunisia and Kuwait are excellent and will not be affected by the Gulf crisis.

At the start of his press conference, which was attended by a large number of representatives of Tunisian, Arab, and international media, the minister talked about his meetings with a number of Tunisian officials and indicated that the Tunisian figures he met reiterated to him Tunisia's stand on the Gulf crisis, which is to support international legitimacy and the return of peace and security in the region, to spare it a destructive war.

With regard to the possibility of finding a solution to the crisis, the Kuwaiti minister pointed out that the solution of the issue has gone beyond the Arab framework and is now within the competence of the international community.

Muslim Fundamentalist Network Alleged in Army

LD2911233990 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In Tunisia, an extremely serious affair has just been reported by the weekly REALITIES. It is reported that Muslim fundamentalist networks are present in the army and the police. The security services are reported to have dismantled one of three networks two weeks ago. For more details, we turn to our correspondent in Tunis, Rida Boughezi:

[Boughezi] History seems to be faltering for the Tunisian islamic fundamentalists who, within a month, saw themselves blamed for two major affairs impinging on the country's security. Three years ago, in November, an armed Islamic group was dismantled on the eve of the overthrow of the former president, Bourguiba. Today, the same thing has happened. According to REALITIES, the army, the police, and the custom services are reported to be the source for the recruitment of partizans of the hard path among the Islamic fundamentalists. After the official announcement last week of the arrest of a dozen militants who, according to the regime, were getting ready to carry out terrorist actions, the weekly REALITIES reveals the arrest of another group of 60 people based in Tunis, and in two towns in the south of

the country. Weapons—the nature of which has not been revealed—are reported to have been seized from the members of this network, which is reported to have been led by a certain (Habib Lassouad), an electricity and gas techician. According to informed sources in Tunis, the latter is reported to have been arrested by the police following a long chase inside the Rades electric power station—where he works—in the outskirts of Tunis. The leader of the group was a member of the armed Islamic network arrested in 1987, and pardoned a year later by President Ben Ali. No confirmation of this operation could be obtained from the Tunisian Interior Ministry. We also still do not know the presumed objectives of the newly dismatled network.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Speaks at UN Security Council

LD3011091290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The United Nations, 29 Nov (SPA)—Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad delivered a speech at the session which was held by the UN Security Council tonight in which he expressed his hope that the Council would issue a historic resolution that would announce the determination to confront the Iraqi aggression in consecration of the principle that international relations must be based on the foundations of international law. Addressing the Council members, he said that the Council aimed at affirming that its principles must be respected and that the principle of collective security must be a framework which organizes international relations, otherwise the strong would aggress against the weak.

He added that Kuwait was a victim of invasion and aggression. Shaykh Sabah hailed the international community for its firm stance in confronting the unjust Iraqi aggression against his country out of eagerness for the sovereignty of law, the normalcy of security and fighting aggression, invasion, and injustice.

He said that Kuwait particpates in today's [29 Nov] meeting knowing that peace is construction and war is destruction, that prosperity relies on stability, and that economic and social progress depend on peace. Shaykh Sabah also dealt with the international efforts that have been made during the recent period to make the Iraqi regime comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, and the Iraqi regime's rejection of all the opportunities that have been made available for avoiding the danger of war.

He also stressed that the stubbornness of the Iraqi regime is leading to a destructive and fierce war the extent of which is not known. He also said: "It seems that it is the only way for us to recover our rights." He reviewed briefly the Iraqi practices in the State of Kuwait since the occupation and pointed out that it encompassed a continuous series of assassinations, torture, expulsion, and tyranny against the peaceful people of Kuwait in addition to the usurpation of rights, the violation of man's dignity, destruction, sabotage, and looting which surpassed everything in an organized operation of destruction of the economic and social structure of Kuwait.

He also said: "The vicious policy of the aggressor aimed at making these savage practices an inducement of fear that would push the Kuwaitis, with force and compulsion, to leave their land and properties for these ferocious beasts to loot." He pointed to the methods of suppressing the Kuwaiti identity and changing the population structure that are being adopted by the Iraqi invading forces.

In his speech to the UN Security Council, the Kuwaiti foreign minister turned to the series of resolutions that have been passed by the United Nations concerning the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He also referred to the similar resolutions that have been passed within the Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned frameworks. He said: "They have all collided with the rock of Iraqi intransigence." [passage omitted]

He pointed to the provocative means employed by the Iraqi regime against the international community in holding innocent hostages, describing them as an affront to human dignity that aims at turning attention away from the occupation of the State of Kuwait.

In concluding his speech, he said: "Our Islamic religion urges peace upon us and urges us to work for the sake of peace. However, within the same logic it urges us to resist and confront aggression and to reject submission."

Saudi Arabia

UK Orders Troops Placed on Alert

LD2911145890 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1406 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Report by Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defense reporter, with the Desert Rats in the Saudi Arabian Desert]

[Excerpt] Forces in the Gulf were today placed on alert for an Iraqi strike for the first time.

Troops in Saudi Arabia were ordered on to air raid warning state yellow, just one below full-scale attack, because of fears of Iraqi retaliation to the UN resolution supporting the use of force to liberate Kuwait.

The move came as senior British commanders warned the public to steel themselves for the horrors of modern warfare and large-scale casualties.

All troops were ordered to carry their NBC (Nuclear Biological and Chemical) protective suits and respirators with them at all times. All warning and alert procedures were checked thoroughly and tension in the area soared.

Major Peter Cross, chief-of-staff at the British forward maintenance area in the port of al-Jubayl, said: "We are on alert for an attack from the air.

"Obviously the Iraqis have the capability to attack us with missiles and aircraft, and the likelihood of this is perceived as being higher today than previously." [passage omitted]

Envoy to UN Addresses Security Council

LD2911233690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Washington, 29 November 1990, SPA—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia urged the Arab and Islamic

nations, the international community, and the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities to lift injustice from the Kuwaiti people, deter the aggressors, and return Kuwaiti legitimacy to the State of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Kingdom called for holding the Iraqi regime responsible for the consequences of its actions in order to protect the region from the offense, dangers, and ill-intentions of this regime. This was said in an extensive speech delivered by the Kingdom's permament representative to the UN, Ambassador Samir al-Shihabi, at the UN Security Council the night before last. [as received]

Ambassador al-Shihabi expressed the Arab nation's pain over the crimes committed by the Iraqi regime. He said, addressing the Security Council: You appreciate the extent of the pain we Arabs feel when we pause to explain crimes that have been committed by an Arab regime in order to condemn it and hold it fully responsible at the UN Security Council—which is the highest podium in the world—after it has invaded a fraternal Arab state, violated norms and conventions, rebelled against the law, shed blood, and usurped people's rights.

Ambassador al-Shihabi said: "The story of the thousands of hostages is a part of the sorrowful and shameful tragedy. It seems as if the Iraqi Government machine is a tool of terrorism and a means for murder and torture."

He referred to what all the Saudi diplomats were exposed to at the hands of the Iraqi authorities in Kuwait and Iraq, actions which remove the Iraqi regime from holding any place among civilized nations.

In his address he talked about the sufferings of four Saudi citizens who worked for the Islamic Rescue organization. They were kidnapped, imprisoned, and burgled as they were helping those made homeless by the Iraqi occupation forces at the Saudi-Kuwaiti borders. He said: "At the time of the historic Islamic conquests, the Arabs and Muslims fought great battles as you know, and through these battles they established a state of civilization and a firm basis of ethics, justice, and fairness."

He added: "The Arab and Islamic nations, the international community, and the UN Security Council must shoulder their responsibilities for lifting the injustice from Kuwait, for deterring the unjust, for restoring every inch of that country to its owner, for restoring the legitimacy to its rightful place in dignity, for making the culprits account for their deeds, and for preserving the security of the region and its countries from the injustice of the aggressors and the dangers of their bad intentions."

Ambassador al-Shihabi expressed his hopes that the UN Security Council in its meeting today will adopt a firm position that will restore the situation to normal before it is too late, as the Iraqi regime has not shown any indication of the slightest consideration or appreciation of the resolutions and stances of the international community. On the contrary, it seems that that regime insists on continuing to occupy Kuwait.

He concluded his address by saying: "We call on all reasonable people to understand the gravity of the Iraqi regime's actions, which do not please God because of that regime's insistence on disobeying all religions. We hold it completely responsible for that."

Bangladeshi Chief of Staff Meets Counterpart

LD2811123990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Nov (SPA)—Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff, met this morning with Staff Lieutenant General Mohamad Nouireldin Khan, chief of staff of the Bangladeshi Army, and members of his delegation now on a visit to the Kingdom.

Discussions during the meeting covered a number of matters of common interest.

The Pakistani guest also met this morning with Staff Lt. Gen. Yusuf al-Rashid, commander of the Saudi Land Forces, at the Land Forces headquarters.

The Saudi commander of joint forces, Staff Lt. Gen. Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz also met with the Bangladeshi chief of staff and members of his delegation.

Discussions during the meeting covered matters pertaining to the fraternal Bangladeshi forces which are in the Kingdom as part of the fraternal and friendly forces there.

Yemen

Salih Claims Military Option Aimed at All Arabs

JN3011111290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, made an important national speech yesterday to the masses of our Yemeni people inside and outside the homeland, congratulating them on the 23d anniversary of the evacuation of the abhorrent British colonialism from a dear part of our beloved homeland. The anniversary falls today, Friday. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the brother chairman said the Presidential Council is about to take the executive steps to present the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen to a plebiscite before the first anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1991. The brother chairman said that the establishment of the Republic of Yemen has made the conspirators lose their senses, and consequently they have begun to renew their malicious conspiracies against the Yemeni people and their eternal unity. He expressed confidence that our proud people—who have gone through all the battles for national

independence—will foil all these conspiracies and that their enemies will only face more lessons in humiliation. He said our people will confront all those who continue with their conspiracies against Yemeni unity. He added that the conspirators' position is clearer now, their games have become further exposed, and the price they pay or receive is too cheap. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman touched on the Gulf crisis and reaffirmed our country's principled adherence to a peaceful Arab solution to the deteriorating problem between Iraq and Kuwait without resorting to the military option. The military option is being marketed by some people in order, primarily, to deal a fatal blow to the entire Arab nation. He also stressed the need to hold dialogue among the Arab states, particularly the regional states, to discuss means to achieve the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. He said: Arabs will not fail to find a practical, real solution.

The brother hailed our people's steadfastness in the economic battle. He expressed great pride in the national and revolutionary spirit shown by the brother expatriates who have returned to their homeland and kinfolk and who have given a shining example of assuming their national responsibility toward their country out of an enlightened awareness of their historical responsibilities toward their country's current situation. He said that they were never a burden on anyone but a source of sacrifice and devotion in performing their duties. [passage omitted]

Claims 'Conspiracies' Will Fail

JN3011104690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman; Presidential Council members; and senior civil and military officials attended yesterday a major festival held at al-Shawkani Hall on the occasion of the graduation of the second class of holders of the masters degree in police science and a number of classes graduating from the training section of the [Police] Academy.

Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered an important speech on the occasion in which he noted the anniversary of national independence on 30 November, the day on which our people forced the colonialists to leave Yemeni territories through the sacrifices of the loyal Yemeni people. The brother chairman also recalled 30 November 1989 when the Yemeni leadership decided to refer the Constitution of the Yemeni state to the legislative bodies in both parts—the Consultative Council in the north and the Supreme People's Council in Aden.

The chairman said: Brothers, we were then in a race against time and the conspiracies of reactionary forces which have been hatching ceaseless conspiracies since the start of the Yemeni revolution on 26 September 1962. Everybody knows those vile conspiracies hatched by the reactionary forces against the glorious Yemeni revolutions of September and October. However our people—with their determination, relentless struggle, and loyalty to the Yemeni revolution's principles and goals—have faced every kind of conspiracy and setback. Our people have faced those conspiracies bravely and protected the immortal 26 September Revolution and the glorious 14 October Revolution. As we are all well aware, we know what the suspect media organs, which are hostile to the Yemeni unity, are saying. Those suspect and hostile media organs say they will foil Yemeni unity. This is untrue regardless of how many millions of dollars they pay. They will never be able to do anything, no matter how hard they try, because this is the will of 14 million strugglers in the Yemeni arena and no one can do anything against Yemeni unity. Just as the strugglers, revolutionaries, and freemen defended the 26 September Revolution until it triumphed in the seventies; and just as the honorable people and militants struggled until the 14 October Revolution triumphed, so we will struggle and defend the 26 September and 14 October revolutions and the great historical achievement of 22 May 1990—that is, the restoration of the Yemeni homeland's unity.

Salih Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN3011095990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the latest developments in the region and the Soviet position toward them, as well as issues concerning relations between the two countries. The message was conveyed by Veniamin Popov, the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa, when the brother chairman received him yesterday.

RCC, Ba'th Party Statement on UN Resolution

JN3011091290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The latest developments of the situation, especially the evil efforts of the United States and other states that followed it to issue an aggressive and illegal resolution by the UN Security Council, were reviewed during the meeting. The Council and Command took the necessary measures and steps.

The following statement was issued by the meeting:

Statement issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

O valiant Iraqis, O sons of the glorious Arab nation, O faithful Muslims throughout the Earth, O good people and lovers of peace and justice in the world. The United States of America has violated our Arab and Islamic holy places, occupied Arab territory as never before in history, assisted Zionist expansion and occupation of Jerusalem, Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. The United States brought its military forces to the region to dominate it and control the resources of the Arab nation and impose hegemony over it in order to reinforce its domination of the world. The United States has assembled all its resources, in an unprecedented manner, used pressure and terrorism, and paid, along with its agents, bribes to make some UN Security Council member states issue a resolution that gives false legitimacy to its military presence and evil intentions of aggression against Iraq, the Arab nation, and Muslims. The resolution issued by the UN Security Council on Thursday, 29 November, is illegal and invalid. It is an American resolution, first and foremost, in which a group of countries took part only because of U.S. pressure at this time in which the United States is exercising the greatest degrees of hegemony and arrogance against the world community following recent developments in the world.

Funds have been paid to the governments of a number of UN Security member states by America's helpers. Enormous pressure has been put on them directly by the President of the United States of America and his secretary of state. These concrete and exposed facts confirm that this resolution is illegal and does not reflect the principles and bases of the UN Charter. It is a shameful resolution that tarnishes the states that are behind it and which has turned the UN Security Council, under U.S. hegemony and corruption, into a repressive organ to implement the evil U.S. objectives and a theater for dirty deals. The states that made the UN Security Council pass a resolution giving legitimacy to U.S. aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation did nothing to confront the Zionist aggression against Palestine and used tactics of procrastination and maneuvering on the question of the usurpation of Jerusalem and the Arab territories and on the premeditated and brutal crimes carried out systematically by the Zionist occupation forces against the militant Palestinian Arab people. They did not lift a finger against America's occupation of Panama and Grenada. The double standards followed by those states where the Arab nation's issues are concerned have been exposed in a flagrant manner, and so has the hypocrisy of some major powers in how they deal with international issues.

Therefore, Iraq, the Arab nation, Muslims, and all peace and justice-loving righteous people in the world have every right to condemn the despicable course taken by these states and not to recognize the legitimacy of the U.S. resolution that was passed in the name of the Security Council. They also appreciate highly the principled and fair positions taken by several Council members who rejected U.S. pressure, terrorism, and corruption.

Iraq, which believes in its inalienable rights and the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arabs to freedom, justice, and dignity, and in peace for all nations of the world on an equal footing just as God Almighty wished them to live free and equal in human value, rejects ultimatums and threats. It will not submit to tyranny and terrorism.

Iraq affirms its firm, principled position that equal dialogue is the course toward discussing conditions in the region. Calls for respecting Security Council resolutions, so that they will be fair and without ulterior motives, must be addressed to all concerned in the same language and must be implemented in the same spirit in all cases. They must not be selective and biased.

The Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command also reaffirm their position as expressed in the 12 August 1990 initiative by leader President Saddam Husayn; namely, that peace in the region is only possible through resolving all the region's problems and crises on the basis of unified principles and standards, and ensuring peace, justice, and security for all the peoples of the region so as to benefit world peace in general. Most important is the fulfillment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Security Council, because of U.S. hegemony and the positions taken by member states with illegitimate interests, has neglected the cause of our Palestinian Arab people for decades. The Council has not followed up on implementing the stockpile of resolutions it has adopted on the Palestine question and other issues concerning the peoples of Third World countries. It remained a spectator to the occupation, usurpation, and crimes of the Zionist entity.

Some Council members are now working day and night at the instigation of the United States to prosecute Iraq and pass unjust and unfair resolutions against it. Therefore, Iraq, the entire Arab nation, and all Muslims and fair people in the world reject this double standard, which stems from arrogance and illegitimate interests. They call upon the Security Council, if it really wants to

carry out its mission as outlined in the UN Charter, to follow one standard and one course of justice and fairness toward our Arab issues, primarily the Palestine question, and other international issues that are causing injustice and suffering to many world nations.

The Iraqi millions, who are determined to resist U.S. injustice and tyranny and who have demonstrated great patience, endurance, and courage, were not intimidated by the unjust and unfair resolutions adopted earlier by the Security Council. Nor did they fear the concentration of evil forces on their border. So, while rejecting this despicable resolution today, the Iraqis are also fully prepared to defend their land and historic rights. If the evil ones resort to aggression, then the people, accustomed to difficult tasks, the brave people of the July [revolution], the great people of the two rivers and their heroic and experienced Armed Forces will teach the evil ones a lesson unprecedented in history.

God is with the brave and faithful Iraqis. They are also backed by their Arab nation, Muslims from all parts of the world, and all peace and justice-loving righteous people in the world. If the evil ones act rashly and turn to aggression, this righteous gathering on the land of the Arabs and in many parts of the world will prove, God willing, that the banner of right, justice, and peace is the one that shall be raised here, in this region and in the whole world, and that the banner of the U.S. Administration and the concentration of evil forces, including its servants and allies who are branded with crime and shame, shall be lowered. America's midget collaborators will be crushed in the battlefield, especially Fahd's treacherous regime, which has turned the land of the holy places it dominates into a springboard for aggression against Iraq.

If the criminals in the corridors of the White House and Pentagon are basing their calculations for confrontation on technical and theoretical considerations, the Iraqis, along with all Arabs and Muslims, will turn these abortive calculations upside down, and they will prove in the field of confrontation that right triumphs over falsehood, that faith defeats infidelity, and that honor overcomes shame and corruption. God supports the believers. God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the Garden of Paradise. They fight in His cause, and slay and are slain [Koranic verses]. God is great! How great the honor of jihad is for the sake of God, right and dignity. God is great. The gathering of evildoers will be defeated and the gathering of believers and right will triumph.

[Signed] The Revolution Command Council and Regional Command, 12 Jumada al-Ula 1411 Hegira, 30 October 1990

Saddam Husayn Addresses Arab Youth Seminar

JN2911182890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to delegates to the fifth Arab youth solidarity seminar in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Welcome to the Arab youth, who are in their country and among their brothers and kinfolk. As always, the young are carriers of the hot, believing, capable blood that runs in the veins of the nation in the theaters of battle, which is also the conscience throbbing with insight and generosity and wisdom wherever necessary, and whenever the need arises for wisdom to take precedence over anything else. This has been the attribute of Arab youth and it still is the overriding factor in our lives as Arabs. Of your brothers now deployed in the southern front, where the prospect of engagement exists, the majority are your age. All your brothers in Iraq have the same spirit of youth that you have, as does any honorable fighter in the defense of the nation's higher values. In your country, Iraq, the young are not a form; they are an expression. The preeminent attribute of their expression is determination and the ability to defend the nation's higher values. The Iraqis are your sisters and brothers, since duty is distributed according to whose turn it is and not according and not according to any difference that places one human value above another.

When Iraqi men and women perform their faithful duty against ingratitude, infidelity, atheism, and tyranny, they are not working with their own energy as was the case before, but assisted by the Arab nation from end to end, after God, the Almighty. Accordingly, they will not bow to the storm no matter how rough it gets. They reject injustice whatever its scale or its source, thus encapsulating the entire history of Arab glories and their great symbols in implementation of the great message of the Arab nation. How can a nation of 200 million people and whose civilization dates back to 6,000 years be defeated in the face of falsehood, especially when it its actions are governed by the dictates of a great faith blessed by God the Almighty?

On this basis, you can see that some are wondering how a people of 18 million are neither shaken nor panicked by the air and sea fleets of America and its aides, who came as aggressors to humiliate the land that embraces the holy places of the Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz, which is unjustly called Saudi Arabia. Have you read or heard about a land and a people named after a family, after one family from the families of the people and homeland? The kings in Saudi Arabia have named an entire people after their own family, and they tried to abolish the history of the entire Arabian Peninsula, the history of their entire people and heritage so as to name the people after their family, their great forefather Sa'ud. They named the people and land the Saudi people and the Saudi land, as if the people and land were a fiefdom

of this family, and as if these people and land had no history, worth, or roots before Sa'ud, the great-grandfather of this family.

We say some are amazed because they do not find the Iraqis trembling because of the fleets. How could the Iraqi people, whose depth extends to all the values and considerations that I mentioned, tremble? Should a believer in God and His message tremble because of the Satan and tyrants and because of injustice and the unjust, regardless of their number and their greater material strength? Our religious, national, and pan-Arab values have taught us that the spiritual defeats the material when the material becomes stronger and attempts to tilt the balance in its favor against the spiritual. How can we, now, forget this value, and fear the fleets of the evildoers? This is unacceptable. Therefore, you find that your people in Iraq are not afraid. Furthermore, I say that they disregard these noisy drums which are being beaten by the failures.

The youth of the Arabs are welcome. All waves in a sea are part of a whole. We are all part of the sea of the Arab nation and we all belong to the Arab nation which taught humanity and mankind all sublime values and which communicated to them—through clear, undeniable assignment—the noble values of all what was conveyed through the heavenly messages, the latest of which is the message of faith that Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, received through Gabriel. This message is not directed at the Arabs alone, but to all of humanity.

You have heard about activities taking place—Baker moving from one place to another; Bush from one place to another; U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney also moving from one place to another. They are moving around hat in hand, as a Western commentator put it, begging for funds to finance themselves and the invading forces. Imagine a state that claims to be the biggest, a superpower, and yet is begging like street jugglers—don't you call them jugglers in Syria and Palestine? They are passing the hat like street jugglers to finance their forces. Is this a superpower? Does the word super only apply to those who adopt the position of the deceiver who depends on unjust force? They are begging with one hand, and with the other threatening others that they will be severely punished unless they agree to this and that.

Now they are trying to hold a meeting of what is regrettably called the Security Council, because it is no longer a council of security, but has become a pliant apparatus that implements the resolutions the United States wants; it is the Security Council that is supposed to take the resolution that gives precedence to dialogue over weapons and gives precedence to the road of peace over the road of war. But we find that it has turned into an apparatus subservient to the United States, with an exception linked to its exceptions, that is except for those who have not voted or rejected the resolutions wanted by the United States.

It is said that the Security Council will meet today so as to say that if Iraq does not do something in a particular manner and responds to all these unjust, void resolutions, which are rejected, we will authorize—they will authorize [words indistinct]—or will allow the United States, as though America were waiting for them to allow it to use force against Iraq. [Words indistinct] When we hear the resolution, we will tremble and cry out: O people, prepare [words indistinct].

We have been asking ourselves daily: Are we right or wrong in this or that affair and that manner of behavior? When the answer is that we are right, then it is impermissible for anyone who is right and is part of a great people and nation to be defeated in the face of threats or the use of force. He should seek the assistance of God—to whom is ascribed all majesty and perfection—to spare humanity war and to spare people fighting. But, if the enemy insists on fighting, then he who is right should fight. If fighting takes place, we will fight in a manner that will raise high the heads of all the good Arabs and Muslims. [prolonged applause, chanting] Exactly like opponents on the sports arena who use... some of them use propaganda methods and try to scare their opponents, and talk about how they will deal their opponents a finishing blow. But the Baghdad fighter will say I will deal him a blow and knock him down.

It seems that some American officials are impressed by what they see in the Rambo movies. The Rambo movies are television movies, but they do not work on Arab land. [applause] In all this, brothers, we are not belittling U.S. military might, but its evil intentions. However, they have exaggerated the issue a great deal as if they were talking to a people who knew nothing. They said the plane they called Ghost [Stealth] cannot be seen by anyone. But for us we will see it clearly when it [words indistinct]. It does not take much effort to see it. [applause] We hope they will not be deceived into imagining that the Iraqis will not see it. We do not want war. We hope it will not take place. However, if God willed that it occur, they will find out that this ghost of theirs can be seen even by the shepherd in the desert. It will also be seen by Iraqi technology. They will see this ghost of theirs will fall just like any other object falls, such as an enemy plane that seeks to humiliate the nation and the people.

Sophistication, as we said on previous occasions before the August events, sophistication should not be confronted by sophistication. Islam is a simple religion, and all the other religions, in their basic principles, are also simple. They all advocate basic issues related to the oneness of the Lord of the heavens and the earth; and that man should thank the Lord of the heavens and the earth, strive on earth, and apply justice between man and his brother man. They are simple principles that are close to one's soul and heart. It is not sophistication that is your brothers' problem here. It is not that they do not possess technology because they are relying at the same time on simplicity. They will hold some dust and throw it in the eyes of this sophisticated technology, so it

cannot see. Do not worry about your people. Your people, beginning with the child who can speak or carry anything in his hand to strike with, and ending with the 80-year-old man, are determined not to bow before injustice. [applause]

One of the politicians from a big power, regrettably, asked an Iraqi: Are you going to liberate Palestine by yourselves, just like that? This means that he dismisses Iraq's belief that Palestine will be liberated, as part of the 12 August initiative. I tell him, and if he hears this he will know what we mean by this, that our talk originates from our conscience. When the conscience is at its best, even if this were to involve the conscience of a single individual, it is as if this man were talking on behalf of mankind. Hence, we say that we have absolute faith, similar to our faith in God, that this confrontation, through its continuity and effects, will liberate all of Palestine. [applause]

He who seeks war will by himself bear the responsibility for its consequences before God and his people. As for those who seek peace, headed by our people in Palestine, our people in the Golan, and our people in (?southern Lebanon occupied by Israel), the Iraqis, all Arabs, all Muslims, and all the well-intentioned and faithful all over the world—anyone who wants to establish peace with them must be convinced that peace is attainable on the basis of the principles contained in the 12 August initiative. Palestine comes first. They say, you must trust the word of honor that can be given that we will consider the issue of Palestine, but we have not sensed any honor in those who talk about honor to make us trust their words. Therefore, we would like to tell those who talk of international legitimacy, international law, and the UN Charter that we as Arabs, Muslims, and followers of all other faiths everywhere, have been the first to uphold international law and international legitimacy, not in accordance with a selective approach, but through the fair implementation of this legitimacy. Where have the UN resolutions passed on the Palestine question since the forties gone so far? Why have not they been implemented? Why was not a blockade enforced against Israel? Why did fleets fail to deploy in the Mediterranean? Why did air squadrons fail to come close to threaten it because it failed to implement UN Security Council resolutions? It always gets a pat on the shoulder when it disobeys Security Council and other UN resolutions, as well as when it holds international law in contempt. When the Arabs are meant to be humiliated and when their rights are meant to be robbed, international law is used as a cover.

If the Arabs used to remain silent about this in the past, neither the Arabs nor Muslims, nor the well-meaning faithful all over the world will remain silent about this after today. We will not accept, either for our region or for the world, this eveil division between people who have more than they need and poor people who are starving to death. We will not accept the witnessing of such a thing, neither inside nor outside the Arab homeland, because this contravenes all the dictates of the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth. Likewise, this violates the standards set by religions, messengers, and prophets.

Ever since we were intermediate school students, we have been reading and hearing the slogan "Arab oil is for the Arabs." How then can Arab oil be possessed by a handful of people while others are hungry? How can we accept the fact that some people who call themselves Arab rulers use Arab oil to visit Arab countries and buy their women's honor after seeing them in the markets? How are we to allow ourselves to see oil become a curse plaguing the Arabs and tarnishing their values at a time when some Arab rulers spend some of their billions on their lust and gambling in the West.

Imagine what the psychological, social, and cultural state of a human being living in the midst of cemeteries may be like. Families lived in the midst of cemeteries in Egypt for very long. People are starving to death in Sudan. And yet, they call themselves Muslims—these people who handle money thusly. Is this Islam? Is this God's religion? Has this anything to do with God's religion? It is not only the road to guidance between man and his God, it is also the path to guidance between man and fellow man. These are our standard principles at this stage. If Arabs are to attain social justice for themselves, the foreigners will have to stand back and let them live in the region and sort out their problems by themselves. Social justice calls for Arabs to establish relations with foreigners on foundations of justice, equality, and mutual respect. Social justice calls for the Sudanese to be equal to the Americans without distinction, except by the yardstick of closeness to God the Almighty. Social justice calls for the Jordanian to be equal to the Frenchman in human terms. They are to be distinguished on the basis of how close or far from God they are. Social justice calls for the Egyptian to be equal to the German from the perspective of human values. We will not have them deal with us condescendingly, and look on the Arab nation as if it were a nonentity. The Arab nation is there; the Arab nation taught those who were previously ignorant. If advocates of a peaceful solution want to internationalize the problems of the region, they must see to the uniform implementation of the UN Security Council and UN resolutions. The first people then who merit prompt attention, being an aggrieved people that need the necessary care and attention from the nations of the world, are the aggrieved people of Palestine. There can be no concessions on that score.

If they want to get involved, they will have to be willing to treat all the people of the region with respect. We do not respect he who does not respect us, no matter how powerful his brutal force is.

Give my regards to the good among your people wherever they are—in all the countries. God willing, your heads will remain held high by observing dignity. Thank you. [applause]

Youth Delegates, Others Respond

JN2911205090

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1741 GMT on 29 November carries a recording of the proceedings following President Saddam Husayn's address to delegates attending the fifth Arab youth solidarity seminar in Baghdad.

The first speaker is an unidentified delegate from Algeria who calls Saddam Husayn "the Arab leader who revived in us and in our Arab nation the intellect that was about to be blocked and made rusty. He revived in us and the Arab nation the steadfastness and defiance that were about to perish." He says that thousands of Algerian students and other young people are daily reporting to volunteer centers in Algeria to join their brothers in Iraq in defending the Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn at one point interrupts him to say: "Convey my greetings to them. The people of Algeria know the meaning of dignity, manhood, and fighting because they fought against French colonialism for seven years and made sacrifices and spilled their dear pure blood. Convey my greetings to the Algerians."

An Egyptian delegate, also unidentified, says Saddam Husayn is in the heart of every Egyptian. The Iraqi president responds that regardless of what has been said and is said, darkness cannot conceal light. He then asks the speaker to convey his greetings to the Egyptian people.

The third speaker is Muhammad Farid Zakariya, representative of the Egyptian Liberal Party and secretary general of the Labor Party Youth. He delivers a 14-minute speech praising Saddam Husayn, in which he notes: "I came to thank you because you closed the Eastern gate and protected our Arab nation. I apologize to you because the Arabs did not take a real stand in support of the people of Iraq." He then criticizes U.S. support for Israel and the policy pursued by the Gulf rulers.

Representatives of the General Union of Yemeni Students and of Palestinian students and youth also praise the Iraqi president and condemn Western talk about force against Iraq.

They are followed by a representative of Moroccan youth organizations, who expresses solidarity with Iraq and condemns U.S. "imperialism" and its allies. Next are the head of the Arab student association in Austria, speaking on behalf of groups outside Arab countries, and the head of Egyptian Labor Party youths. The latter says: "If America attacks Iraq or opens fire in the Gulf, we in the Labor Party, the youth and leaders of the Labor Party, will threaten American interests in Egypt. The party leader has also said that he himself would personally undertake this action and he is responsible for what he does." He adds: "We firmly reject the dispatch of Egyptian forces to the Gulf and believe this was done on an individual's decision without the convocation of the People's Assembly or a decision in this regard." At this point, Saddam Husayn interrupts, remarking, to the delegates' applause: "Don't worry. The Egyptian forces in the Gulf will fight with the Iraqi forces. When Arab forces, wherever they come from, approach the region, we will not be disturbed because in all cases, if they come under the slogan of the so-called defense of Saudi Arabia, you know that what we say [words indistinct] by other words. If we had another intention, we would make it public. We fear no one. But since we have no such intention, we are not worried by the arrival of Arab forces in Saudi Arabia. If fighting occurs, we will be confident that the Egyptian forces will fight alongside the Iraqi forces."

A delegate for the national union of Syrian students and youth says: "We pledge, Mr. President, that the people of Syria—students and youths—will be a thorn that will prick the eyes of the traitors and plotters. Syria—which you know—will side with the Iraqi army and people behind you in the crucial battle, the battle of all truth against all falsehood. If the battle comes, victory will be the lot of the faithful mujahidin under your leadership and defeat will be the lot of America and its allies and plotters against the destiny of our glorious Arab nation."

The last two speakers are the secretary general of the Maghreb youth union and the Jordanian youth delegate, both of whom give praise to Iraq. The recording ends at 1830 GMT.

Youths Give Memos to Embassies

JN2911210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—On behalf of tens of millions of Arab youths and students, the participants in the fifth Arab youth solidarity seminar, currently under way in Baghdad, have denounced the American-Atlantic invasion of the Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

During a demonstration in front of the American Embassy in Baghdad today, they reiterated their firm support for Iraq under President Saddam Husayn in confronting the schemes of imperialism and Zionism and their agents of the so-called Arabs such as the betrayer of the two holy mosques Fahd and Husni.

They delivered a memorandum to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad on behalf of 48 Arab youth and student organizations representing Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea, Mauritania, Lebanon, Bahrain, the Arab students secretariat, the Arab Maghreb youth and students union, the Arab union for youth and environment, and the Iraqi National Youth and Student Federation. The memorandum stressed that the presence of the Arab youths' representatives in Baghdad under these circumstances reflects their fateful solidarity with their brothers in Iraq, which was dictated by the pan-Arab will, the one destiny, and the militant responsibility toward the achievement of freedom and dignity for the sons of the Arab nation.

The memorandum also called for the withdrawal of the American- Atlantic forces of invasion from the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz, for an end to the language of threats and intimidation, and for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on noble Iraq's people and children, especially since it represents the most serious and hateful, fascist links against mankind. The memorandum stressed that peace and stability in this vital region can only be achieved through the adoption of President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative, taking into consideration that it is an initiative that expresses fairness and right and constitutes a good framework for true peace in the region. It said that all the resolutions that were and will be issued by the United Nations and the UN Security Council regarding developments in the region are null and void and have nothing to do whatsoever with logic and justice, because these two institutions are now implementing American policy against the aspirations of peace-loving peoples.

During their demonstration in front of the American Embassy, the young Arabs hailed the heroic, principled, and brave stand of lofty Iraq and its unique leader, President Saddam Husayn, and their heroic confrontation of the forces of despotism and aggression.

The youth and student representatives also handed a memorandum to the British Embassy in Baghdad regarding the aggressive stand against the Iraqi people and the sons of the Arab nation. In their memorandum, they stressed the solidarity of the Arab nation's youth and students with the steadfast Iraqi people's confrontation of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. They called on Britain not to be dragged behind American-Zionist schemes and not to implement their objectives, which are hostile to the Arab nation, and to respect instead the Arab people's right to a free will and freedom regarding Arab issues within the one Arab family.

Likewise, the Arab youth and student representatives called on the Chinese Government to veto the American draft resolution and to foil the American plan to ignite war and destruction in the region. In a memorandum they delivered to the Chinese Embassy in Baghdad, they drew attention to the good historical relations between the Arab nation and China. They stressed that the Arab masses are expecting a historic decision from China in harmony with the firm relations between the Arab and Chinese people; China should not allow America to carry out its aggressive scheme to control the destinies of the people of the world.

49 Swedish Citizens Leave Baghdad on Private Jet

JN3011120290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1156 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's order to allow the Swedish guests of the Iraqi people to leave or stay in Iraq, as they wish, 49 Swedish nationals left Baghdad this afternoon on board a private Iraqi jet for home.

In statements to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], the departing guests of Iraq expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the good treatment and hospitality they were given by the Iraqi leadership and people during their stay. They said leader President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow them to leave for their country or stay in Iraq according to their wish was a humanitarian gesture that demonstrates Iraq's good intentions toward achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Assembly Votes To Allow Belgians To Leave

JN2911214490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2108 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The National Assembly agreed with a majority vote to allow the Belgian nationals, guests of the Iraqi people, to travel or stay in Iraq as they wish. This was decided at a National Assembly session tonight under Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz, during which a report by the Arab and International Relations Committee and the Legal Affairs Committee was discussed. The report contained the two committees' opinion of the letter from the Presidential Office submitting to the National Assembly the request made by the various Belgian party and parliamentary delegations currently visting Iraq to give the Belgian nationals in Iraq the freedom to travel.

The report stressed that whenever the National Assembly, the representative of the Iraqi people, found a favorable opportunity contributing to the consolidation of peace in the region, it would hasten to respond by granting some groups of guests a chance to travel outside Iraq or stay, as they wished.

The report referred to statements made by the Belgian foreign minister on 19 November in which he said that Belgium prefers not to use force and that military intervention will have negative effects on the West and also on the prospects for resolving the Palestine question. In the statement, the Belgian foreign minister also emphasized that it was necessary to take interest in the convocation of an international conference to discuss the issues of Palestine, Lebanon, and regional disarmanent.

The report also referred to the position of the Belgian parliamentary delegation now in Iraq made up of seven ruling and opposition parties. The parties represented in the delegation expressed their support for leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and declared that it as an objective, humanitarian, and fair initiative. Likewise, members of the Belgian delegation stressed the need to attain a peaceful and negotiated settlement and the need to avoid war. Moreover, they said that the UN Security Council should display fairness and international legitimacy in enforcing all the resolutions that it has passed on the Palestine question and on the withdrawal of the Zionist entity from the occupied Arab territories.

The report added: Proceeding from all that has been noted, because we are eager to bolster the good ties existing between the two people and parliaments and to

develop them in the interest of mankind and the two friendly states, and in recognition of these positions, the two committees urge members of the esteemed National Assembly to agree to allow Belgian nationals to travel or stay in Iraq as they wish.

The representative of the Foreign Ministry supported the proposal to allow Belgian guests to leave Iraq or stay as they so wish to encourage Belgium to work for a peaceful and negotiated settlement and oppose the option of military aggression adamantly sought by the United States of America.

The Belgian parliamentary delegation, as well as foreign media correspondents, attended the session.

Saddam Reportedly To Allow British To Depart

NC2911160390 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 29 (AFP)—President Saddam Husayn on Thursday authorised 15 elderly and ill British hostages to return home with their departure expected to take place Saturday, British diplomats here said.

Mr. Husayn's decision was taken after talks here with British Labour Party MP [Member of Parliament] Tony Benn, who later left Iraq at the end of a two-day visit.

Paper Says UN Resolution Gains Nothing for Bush

JN3011113690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that the resolution Bush adopted and made great efforts to have the Security Council pass will not gain anything for him, nor will it save him from the dilemma of the murderer and that aggression against Iraq will face miserable defeat.

Commenting in its leading article today, the paper says: When the great historic battle takes place, Bush and his Zionist allies will not have a foothold on our chaste land. The heads of the traitors will fall and a new dawn will rise in the life of the Arabs, Muslims, and all mankind.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If Bush thinks or imagines that the ploy of cloaking the war decision in false international legitimacy can deceive Iraq, then he has miscalculated. For, he will find in the end that he has fallen into a swamp from which he will not be able to escape until he gets his fair share of defeat.

The paper says: The method by which the U.S. resolutions, including the war decision, were passed by the UN Security Council under the cover of false international legitimacy does not harm Iraq alone. For, in addition to its grave consequences for peace in the region and the world, this method will entrench for many years to come the principle of using brutal armed force against any country or power that stands against the U.S. Administration.

AL-THAWRAH says: In all cases and in all circumstances, the Bush administration's passing of the war and aggression resolution through the Security Council will only be a flimsy cover to hide the shame of those behind it. It will not change basic facts. And, as far as Iraq is concerned, this resolution will only be a formality. It will not give those behind it any advantages. The Iraqi reply will be one, as prepared and designed. The Iraqi brain will go to the maximum in inventing new factors and formulas in order to inflict ruin and defeat on the invaders and aggressors and to burn their concentrations if they ever dare attack Iraqi territory.

Military Paper Attacks UN's 'Racist Policy'

JN3011100290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The military daily newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said: Iraq rejects the UN Security Council's racist policy and calls for an end to it. This is an inalienable right that Iraq supports with capability and power, even if it means fighting the biggest war in contemporary history, which will make the whole world pay for the UN Security Council's racism in the form of destruction and economic collapse.

In its editorial today, the paper says: Iraq cannot stand idle in the face of this policy, as most Arab regimes have done, and are still doing. As part of its mission to protect and preserve the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity and regain its usurped rights, Iraq believes it is high time for the world community to pay attention to the injustice being done to the Arabs, especially by the United States of America, which is preparing its armies to invade the region and strike at Iraq, the vanguard of the Arab nation. This is a prelude to bringing this nation to its knees and the methodical plundering of its oil wealth.

The paper notes the double standards and selectivity followed by the Security Council, under the leadership of the United States, in issuing its resolutions, particularly those related to the Arab region. It says: The most blatant evidence of this policy is the Council's ignorance of Iraq's 12 August initiative in which President Saddam Husayn called for linking all regional issues and problems—notably, the occupation of Palestine—and resolving them on the basis of the same standards of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

The paper concludes by saying: By calling for an end to the policy of double standards followed by the Security Council under the leadership of the United States, Iraq is not making an appeal, but is raising an inalienable right, for which it is fighting the most tyrannical and arrogant power in the world—the United States.

Paper Says U.S. Schemes Doomed to Failure

JN2811125290 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 28, INA—The Iraqi English Language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said here

today that it may be important to note that what is going on now in the region, especially the U.S. threats to wage a war of aggression against Iraq, is only a chapter in a carefully drawn plan that started long ago, but when the initial chapters of this plan failed to bear fruit, the anti-Iraq camp represented by Israel, the U.S. and Britain, the tripartite alliance, aided, unfortunately, by some Arab leaders shifted to a new tactic of direct involvement to strike a final blow to Iraq's emergence as an Arab power.

A daily editorial said the British-U.S.-Israeli collaboration against Iraq was marked by a series of attempts to undermine its sovereignty and distort its international image. A spy was sent to Iraq, as allegations mounted about Iraq's efforts to build a super-gun, nuclear bombs and bacteriological arms and so on. But to the misfortune of the anti-Iraq coalition, the spy was caught red-handed, tried and then executed, the so-called nuclear triggers turned out to be mere electric capacitors and the giant '130-foot gun-barrels' only ordinary pipes, clearly more plausible than the mythical doomsday gun.

The daily pointed out that then came another phase in the scheme against Iraq to be carried out this time by a bunch of oil sheikhs in the region. The former Kuwaiti sheikhs were instructed to destroy Iraq's economy and impede its post-war development and reconstruction plans.

Iraq's warnings to the former regime in Kuwait went unheeded and the corrupt sheikhs persisted in their conspiracy, encouraged by their masters in Washington, Tel Aviv and London. The conspiracy was now taking extremely dangerous dimensions and Iraq was left with no choice but defend its very existence and life.

It further said that the U.S.-Israeli-British conspiracy against Iraq has gradually gathered more impetus, especially as the United Nations Security Council has become a tool in the hands of the U.S. Administration to pass resolution after resolution against Iraq and its people. A savage campaign has been conducted by the U.S. inside the Security Council to hurt Iraq, choke its economy and starve its people.

Yet, as the first chapters of the conspiracy have failed to weaken Iraq, the final phase of the enemies' scheme is definitely going to meet the same fate. The whole conspiracy is doomed to failure, it concluded.

Paper Says Nation Prepared for 'Historic' Battle

JN2811123690 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 28, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that it was hightime to relinquish participation in the big American crime which Bush wants to involve other countries in.

A daily article here today said that such an independent position by those countries away from the American influence would prove the real intentions and will of commitment to peace and renouncing the path of war.

The daily cited in this respect the hasty, unjust and unbalanced resolutions issued by the Security Council through direct encouragement and intervention by the United States.

The Iraqi paper further said that the target to grant the U.S. Administration a free hand in using military force for implementing the embargo against Iraq has turned this embargo into one of the important chapters of the U.S. aggressive designs. It was also the start of escalating tension and launching war against Iraq and that with such deceptive endeavour, the U.S. Administration was able to gain hasty and nervous stances by those who were duped by adventure and aggression.

The daily stressed that in face of such stances, the Iraqi people would never bow before the tyrants despite all results and circumstances and that the Iraqi people have well prepared themselves and mobilized their potentials for the big historic battle, if it might take place.

U.S. Allies 'Direct Targets' in Event of War

JN2611212190 Baghdad Voice of Arab Awakening in Arabic to Saudi Arabia 1935 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Directed at Arab soldiers—station commentary: "Iraq's Capabilities are Greater Than the Enemies Think"]

[Text] [passage indistinct] However, Bush does not want to understand that a struggling people who fought for eight years and made precious sacrifices cannot be terrified by the beating of war drums or weakened by economic pressure or psychological war. Thus, Bush has come to the conclusion that none of his psychological and economic and political warfare will do him any good with Iraq. Therefore, he has no option but to turn the last page of the scheme; that is, military action and attacking Iraq.

Because we are not unaware of the objectives of U.S.-Zionist aggression on our country and because we know well that they are targeting the civilized pan-Arab movement of the Arab nation and its impregnable bulwark, Iraq, with all that it represents in contemporary Arab life, and because we realize that they want to destroy our country and kill our people and defile our sanctities and honor, we have firmly made up our mind to oppose and confront the scheme of evil and aggression.

We will fight and strike them where it hurts with all the weapons and capabilities we possess. We will prove to Bush and to the slaves kneeling under his feet that their calculations are totally inaccurate and that Iraq's capabilities and experience are greater that they think or calculate, and that we will win and defeat the tyrants of war and traders of death and destruction until we make them regret their fatal confrontation with Iraq. They know, beyond doubt, that we do not make statements haphazardly the way those who threaten Iraq and think they can terrify it by the war drums are doing [words

indistinct] but we mean every word we say [words indistinct] principles and sanctities and the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation [words indistinct].

If the invaders embroil themselves and ignite the fuel of war, we will make it a disaster for them [words indistinct] and all the allies and instigators and pillars of America in the region will be direct targets of our strikes—yes, all the allies and servants of America; we will not leave any one of them out. Then, Bush, Fahd, Husni, and Shamir will regret it, but only when it is too late.

Islamic Jihad Challenges Bush To Attack Nation

JN2311204490 Baghdad Voice of Arab Awakening in Arabic to Saudi Arabia 1918 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Talk directed at Arab soldiers]

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis has issued a statement urging the Arab and Islamic nations to show their anger and rejection of U.S. President Bush's tour which it termed as aggressive.

The movement challenged Bush to attempt aggression on Iraq, declaring that this will bring about his end in the region and in the Islamic lands, as well as the end of [words indistinct].

The movement added: Our people's masses, who are standing proudly and nobly against the Atlantic invasion of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, and confirming their support for the valiant Palestinian intifadah and steadfast Iraq, see Bush's tour as an event that provokes their national and pan-Arab sentiments. In their hearts, they are saying: Bush, go home. We will not be intimidated by the show of force, as our masses firmly adhere to their firm and principled position on the withdrawal of the invading U.S.-Atlantic troops, an end to the economic and military blockade against Iraq, and a solution to the Gulf crisis within an Arab context.

Broadcast to Saudi Soldiers Criticizes Bush

JN2811072790 Baghdad Voice of Arab Awakening in Arabic to Saudi Arabia 2034 GMT 26 Nov 90

["Opinion and Analysis" feature: "An Exposed Trick to Justify U.S. Aggression"—directed at Arab soldiers]

[Text] Brother Arab officers and soldiers in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. During his speech to the U.S. troops stationed in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, Bush said that Iraq might have come close to acquiring nuclear weapons. Why did Bush himself emphasize Iraq's nuclear capabilities?

Observers affirmed that Bush's allegations are a new exposed U.S. gimmick meant to justify aggression on Iraq after other pretexts and excuses have been revealed and exposed. Everybody recalls that Bush sent his troops to invade the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf on the pretext of an alleged Iraqi threat to the Fahd regime. When this lie was exposed and the world knew for sure that Iraq did not intend to harm or attack any Arab state, the U.S. Administration began to talk of numerous other objectives. Sometimes it says that Iraq possesses 20 percent of the world's oil reserves, enabling it to control the world economy—an impermissible state of affairs—because this means that the United States and its allies would be stifled economically. At other times, the Bush administration says that its troops were dispatched to the region to implement UN Security Council resolutions, defend what it calls international legitimacy, and reinstate the Croesus of Kuwait and its corrupt regime. These pretexts and others were denounced by the U.S. people and the world public, because all of these reasons do not justify the launching of a devastating regional war that would cause enormous human and economic losses.

Only Thatcher, Husni, Fahd, the Croesus of Kuwait, and his henchmen supported Bush's aggressive onslaught and believed his conflicting lies. As for the peoples of the entire world, they opposed the U.S. threats of aggression and announced their rejection of the military option which Bush has been incessantly brandishing against Iraq. Bush's recent statements about a potential threat because of Iraq's nuclear capability came in a failed bid to intimidate the world states because of this alleged danger, win support for the U.S. aggression, and help hasten the implementation of this aggression.

Bush knows before others that this trick is not new. The U.S. Administration used this trick more than once in its previous attempts to evoke rancor against Iraq when it gave warnings at the beginning of this year, citing the alleged dangers posed by the weapons of mass destruction possessed by Iraq and also by its advanced military and technological projects.

Iraq has neither denied nor chosen to hide its persistent endeavors to develop its military capabilities and to build a deterrent and effective military power. It has explained the motives and reasons behind such endeavors to the whole world. There is no doubt that the Americans are fully aware that Iraq seeks to develop its military capabilities to defend its national and pan-Arab security and confront the Zionist threat and the continuous aggression against the Arab nation.

Has Bush forgotten that the Zionist entity has had nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons for a long time? Has the U.S. president forgotten that the Zionist entity is occupying Arab lands and continuing its aggression and arrogance in defiance of the international community's will and refusing to implement the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council? Why then does he deem it impermissible for Iraq to acquire the weapons it deems proper for self-defense, whereas he allows the Zionists to use all weapons in their aggression against the Arabs? Where are the international legitimacy, ethics, and principles which Bush talks of on many occasions? The Arabs as well as the world peoples are well aware that Bush's slogans no longer deceive anybody and that the U.S. legitimacy upheld by

Bush is nothing but a new brand of colonialism designed to force hegemony on peoples, and nations with a view to plundering their wealth.

Hence, it is not strange for Bush to be shocked and disturbed and to lose his patience and mind when he finds himself unable to make steadfast Iraq succumb. According to American standards, Iraq is a small developing state which does not have the right to challenge superpowers. However, we would like to address Bush and his allies saying: In the balance of human principles, honor, and dignity, Iraq should be viewed as a big power as long it continues to uphold the banner of right and faith and to lead the well-intentioned among the honorable and faithful Arabs to confront falsehood and the U.S.-Zionist aggression. As for Bush, his allies, and agents, they will find that Iraq possesses numerous lethal weapons which they have never thought of, foremost among which is the weapon of faith and jihad. Only God grants victory.

Paper Examines Bush's NEWSWEEK Article

JN2211073390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] In an article headlined "Bush, Oil, and Controlling the World," today's issue of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is not strange that in his article published by the U.S. NEWSWEEK magazine yesterday, U.S. President Bush spoke emphatically and clearly on the relationship between the increased U.S.-Atlantic military buildup in the Arabian Gulf—which is primarily designed for armed aggression against Iraq—and the goal of controlling the oil sources in this vital region of the world. Although the U.S. plan to control oil sources is an essential part of U.S. international strategy, President Bush—having reaped the initial results of international detente and become certain that the United States is now the sole, unrestrained superpower—hastened to put this objective among his top priorities. Because Bush knows that dominating the oil sources in the Gulf is a complicated matter and requires waging a fierce, multiphased political, media, economic, and military battle, which falls within the general objective of rearranging the situation in the region, he has prepared the requirements of this battle and drawn up plans that suit its special and exceptional importance.

Among the first of the plans and practical objectives drawn up by the U.S. Administration is to use all means to contain Iraq and undermine its strength and capabilities. This is because it has found that Iraq—thanks to its characteristics, location, and historic leadership—is the only effective and influential power that can check the U.S. plan and prevent it from achieving its goals. On this basis, the U.S. Administration moved at an unusual speed to exploit time and the factors of superiority it gained with the end of the cold war. For this reason, it ignited the elements of tension in the region and waged unprecedented media campaigns and psychological warfare against Iraq. It also pushed the Zionist entity and all the reserve forces of humiliated overt and covert agents in the region into the process of distributing roles among conspirators. The goal uniting this evil alliance has been to weaken Iraq and to settle accounts with it through military action—whether through Zionist aggression or a direct U.S.-Atlantic aggression.

Thus, since early 1990, events took a gradual but escalating course until they reached, after 2 August, the point of direct U.S.-Atlantic intervention. The U.S. Administration knows that the objective of controlling the oil sources requires the destruction of Iraq's power and its huge capabilities and maintaining the Zionist entity's strategic superiority for many years to come. Now, after the deployment of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Gulf waters, the talk about controlling the oil sources takes on its full significance. It has now become clear that all that has been said about international legitimacy was in fact nothing but a cover and pretext to justify the direct U.S.-Atlantic military intervention.

Having assembled his military forces on border of Iraq, U.S. President Bush seems that he no longer feels the need to resort to these maneuvers. So he has he explicitly revealed the essential objective behind the U.S. Forces' occupation of the land of Najd and Hejaz and the threats of armed aggression against Iraq. In his article, Bush said that, among the reasons for the U.S. presence in the Gulf region is oil and the possibility of Iraq's domination of the huge reserves in the Gulf, something which he considered a danger to U.S. national security. Thus, Bush raises a serious topic that entails a spiteful aggressive and racist goal to deprive the Arabs of their natural right to control their resources and of their right of sovereignty over them. Using feeble pretexts, which totally contravene international law and equal international relations, which were established by mankind after long struggle and heavy sacrifices, Bush gives himself the right to occupy and control this wealth.

It is no coincidence that Bush builds his policies and specifies his aggressive and evil objectives on the basis of his own assumptions and in an arbitrary manner far removed from realistic possibilities, expectations, and the way Iraq manages its oil resources. Has Bush forgotten, or does he pretend to forget that Iraq used to export to the United States one-third of its imports of crude oil supplies before the imposition of the economic embargo on Iraq? Has he forgotten that oil is a basic commodity on which all producing countries depend for development and the requirements of life? Besides, why does Bush insist on his colonialist and racist hypothesis that the Arabs' sovereignty over their oil wealth may contravene U.S. national security? Is it not better for all nations and peoples to call sincerely for equal and balanced relations between oil producing and consuming nations as the correct and sound basis to secure common benefits and interests for all parties and to establish a mechanism that would avoid harm to producers or consumers and keep oil supplies subject to supply and

demand in a manner that secures the needs of all without exception and through easy terms?

However, Bush wants the gigantic U.S. oil companies to devour everything in this world so long as the United States possesses military arsenals and other means of pressure, and so long as it is capable of controlling the oil sources. The aim of this is to enable the United States to dominate the world and its economies and put a noose around the neck of whoever stands against it and competes with it in the economic field. As it seems, the United States wants to make the European and Japanese lungs breathe only through the one pipe, which it controls.

With certain confidence and firm resolve, we say that Bush's plan will not be successful in any case or under any circumstances, and that the threats of aggression and the increasing buildup will not stir a single hair on the heads of the Iraqi boys and will not frighten the faithful and rightful people. The Iraqis from the mountain [northernmost part of Iraq] to the sea, along with all the faithful gathering, are determined to achieve a great a victory in the greatest of battles.

Editorial on Linkage of Gulf, Palestine Issues

JN2711175890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that those who are trying to separate the so-called Gulf crisis from the [Palestine] question are trying to escalate tension in the region and to exacerbate the feelings of injustice in Arabs and Muslims.

In its editorial today headlined "The Pan-Arab Project and the Scheme of Aggression," the paper adds: Those who are behind such attempts are headed by the representatives of the American-Zionist scheme, those who are influenced by Zionism, the small Arab rulers who believe that the assurances of those who are behind this scheme will protect them and spare them its evils, and those who have accepted treason and practice it openly. [passage omitted]

The paper adds: The plot against Iraq is not new, for there have been several attempts by those behind the American-Zionist scheme to besiege, weaken, distract it, and then destroy it. In fact, there have been several attempts to tame it and force it to give up its pan-Arab project.

The paper says that those who prolonged the Iraq-Iran war for eight years expected a weak Iraq, confined within its own country. This is why the conspiracy and the destruction of the Iraqi currency have coincided with the guns' silence. The Croesus [Emir of Kuwait] and his likes were the tools to implement this conspiracy. [passage omitted]

The paper adds: Here, we should note that what the nation's enemies have done to mobilize for the current battle arises from their knowledge that there is a strong link between the Arabian Gulf events and the liberation of Palestine. In fact, we should highlight the political position taken by those who have dispatched forces to the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula on the Palestine question, and expose the huge disparity between their alleged concern for international legitimacy and a new world system on the one hand, and their silence over the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist entity and their determination not to punish it, if only through denunciation, on the other.

The paper says that, perhaps the U.S. Administration's impatient reply to Iraq's 12 August initiative, which was echoed by agents like the feeble-minded Husni who is shackled with Camp David chains, adds further evidence that these parties want to save the Zionist entity from having to face a fair trial.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: All the facts in hand, which are also being discussed by the world, prove there is a link between the so-called Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, and that the world is being put to a moral test in our region. The question now is Palestine. So that our world, its institutions, and slogans will not fail in this moral test, it should act in accordance with the fact that Palestine is the first and foremost issue, and that a radical solution to the Palestine question is the way to resolve all the region's crises.

Opposition Leader Against Military Attack

NC2711181690 Paris AFP in English 1615 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Teheran, Nov 27 (AFP)—An Iraqi opposition leader appealed Tuesday to U.S. President Geoge Bush not to act rashly in the Gulf, adding that economic and political pressures on Baghdad would bring down the Iraqi regime.

Mohammad Taghi Modarressi [name as received], leader of the Islamic Action Organization (IAO) based here, said a military attack against Iraq "would be a precipitous act with negative consequences."

He was referring to the U.S.-led multinational force massed against Iraq to prevent an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia and to dislodge Iraqi forces from Kuwait, which they invaded on August 2.

"The outbreak of a war will be devastating and cause irreparable damage for the people of the region," he said.

The opposition leader warned against turning Iraqi President Husayn into "the symbol of combat in the Arab and Islamic world against the superpowers."

To avoid this, he said, economic and political pressure should be maintained and support given Iraqi opposition movements.

"The forced military recruitment in schools, repression and economic problems will trigger a spread of demostrations against the Iraqi regime," he asserted.

According to Mr. Modarrassi, "political actions and the emergence of popular discontent in Iraq will eventually force Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait."

The IAO is the military arm of the Shiite opposition to the Iraqi government. In recent years, it has carried out operations against Iraqi targets inside Iraq and abroad, including the Iraqi embassies in Paris and London.

Mr. Modarressi was expelled from Kuwait, where he resided, soon after the late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni came to power in Iran in 1979. He has since been based in Teheran where he has organized several anti-Iraqi operations.

Iranian Official Calls Talks Productive; Departs

JN2911144590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Mostafa Ha'eri-Fuman, director general of the Gulf Desk at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a five-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Ha'eri described his talks with Iraqi officials as productive and positive. He added that the talks were part of the two countries' agreement to continue contacts to reinforce and enhance lasting and comprehensive peace to serve the joint interests of the people of the two countries based on the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect.

Saddam Tells Ortega State Respects Peace Efforts

JN2911213490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn today received Mr. Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's former president. They discussed regional developments and ways to bring about peace, security, and stability to the region and keep the specter of war at bay. His excellency the leader president stressed that Iraq wants and respects all peace-oriented efforts that do not originate in premeditated aggressive intentions. He emphasized that the call for respecting international legitimacy must equally apply to the Palestinian people and their right to their land, freedom, and sovereignty.

Mr. Daniel Ortega said he rejects the logic of threats and aggression practiced against Iraq. He declared his and the Nicaraguan people's support for Iraq in the face of any aggression. Mr. Ortega said attempts to impose domination on the region generate the Third World nations' desire for independence and freedom and their rejection of slavery and backwardness.

The meeting was attended by Messrs. 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Shamir 'Completely Endorses' Bush Gulf Policies

TA3011101790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israel completely endorses President Bush's policies on the Gulf crisis and is ready to help if necessary, although it is content to continue displaying a low profile, Prime Minister Shamir told 19 members of the House Armed Services Committee yesterday evening, Israeli participants in the meeting said.

The one-hour meeting was devoted to the Gulf crisis, with virtually no attention being paid to the Israeli-Arab conflict as congressional officials wanted Shamir's understanding of the policy of Iraq's Saddam Husayn and sought to urge Israel to continue keeping a low profile. [passage omitted]

Shamir Calls UN Resolution for Ultimatum 'Good'

TA3011104790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Last night's UN resolution is good and may contribute toward the termination of the intolerable situation created by the Iraqi despot. The above was stated today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a meeting with Israel Bonds leaders from New York. Shamir contends that Israel is directly threatened by Saddam Husayn, which is why our forces are on constant alert. We will know how to defend ourselves, just as we have before, said the prime minister.

Shamir's Office Examines 'New' Peace Idea

TA3011094190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Nov 90 p A1

[Report by Avin'oam Bar-Yosef and London correspondent Shma'ya Qeydar]

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad explained to U.S. President George Bush in Geneva last week that any arrangement with Israel will be conditional upon its readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights. This emerges from the reports that have come in to Jerusalem.

Senior political sources have pointed out that so far no complete report from the United States on President Bush's Gulf tour has arrived. According to information received through indirect channels, the Syrian president took a firm stand regarding a settlement with Israel. Bush sought permission for Syria's Jews to leave. Al-Asad promised to ease their plight.

A new idea regarding the promotion of peace with the Arab countries is being examined in the Prime Minister's Office as the first step toward a solution to the Palestinian problem and in light of the new political situation that will be created following the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Shamir Comments to Editors Regarding UN, U.S.

Views UN Anti-Israel Attacks

TA2911134890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the United States is not strong enough to curb anti-Israeli attacks in the United Nations, and noted that the latest debates might jeopardize Israel's status.

Speaking to the committee of newspaper editors on the occasion of 29 November [anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine], the prime minister linked recent infiltrations into Israeli territory to wild incitement and hostile propaganda in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria.

Turning to the political issue, the prime minister said we will have to wait until the Gulf crisis is over before we can promote the political process. Shamir added: If necessary, I will go to America with new ideas.

The prime minister called on the Histadrut labor federation not to stage a general strike because this would be in serious contravention of Israel's needs. Such action would be debilitating and dangerous, Prime Minister Shamir added.

Mr. Shamir said he objected to lowering the salary conditions of army career officers, and said he believed such a proposal would not be approved.

Says UN Ideas 'Foul' Atmosphere

TA2911142090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the ideas raised in the United Nations to send delegations, investigating committees, observers, and ombudsmen to Israel foul the atmosphere, set obstacles, and preclude any serious process aimed at solving the problems of the region in a logical and sensible manner. Israel hopes that the United States is aware of this danger, he said. Nevertheless, the prime minister noted, Washington is apparently not strong enough to avoid the temptation of following the conciliatory path proposed by our enemies.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister was addressing the annual meeting of the committee of newspaper editors on the occasion of 29 November [anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine].

The prime minister added that he would ask President Bush for financial aid to absorb immigrants. Mr. Shamir noted that Israel needs vast sums of money to meet the needs of immigrant absorption. [passage omitted]

No Cooperation Planned With UN 'Ombudsman'

TA3011111590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Israel will not cooperate with a UN ombudsman for the territories, political sources in Jerusalem told our political reporter Arye Golan in anticipation of the Security Council's vote on the matter. Two days ago, Foreign Minister Levi asked the U.S. ambassador to tell Secretary of State Baker that nowhere in the world has an ombudsman on behalf of the United Nations been appointed, and it is not clear why one would be necessary in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, of all places. According to the foreign minister, the initiative of the bloc of nonaligned countries is a distinctly political move and an act of extortionism and political terrorism intended to drive a wedge between the United States and Israel.

Arens Comments on Gulf Crisis, Peace Process

TA2911182890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Shlomo Ganor, Dani Levi, and Yoni Ben-Menahem on 29 November in the television studio; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ben-Menahem] What about Israel's role in the Gulf crisis? The assessment of the defense establishment had been that Saddam Husayn will at any cost try to drag Israel into the conflict. Is this assessment still valid?

[Arens] You did not hear such an assessment from me; that is one possibility. As far as Saddam Husayn is concerned, I do not think this would be a very convenient choice, because in one fell swoop—which would not be very significant for us—he would be gaining another adversary; that is, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which would stand up to him and operate against him if he chooses to use the military option against us.

[Ganor] So, do we continue to maintain our low profile until then?

[Arens] I have said that if Saddam Husayn attacked Israel, our reaction would not be a low profile one.

[Ben-Menahem] Under which circumstances would Israel see itself involved in the Gulf crisis?

[Arens] If we are attacked, if our interests are hurt.

[Levi] Are the red lines set forth by Israel, such as the deployment of Iraqi troops in Jordan, still valid?

[Arens] Nothing has changed.

[Levi] I nevertheless discern a different tone in your remarks about Israel's avowed position. To wit, a few months ago you were a little more moderate in your statements regarding Israel's reaction to any steps by Saddam Husayn.

[Arens] They say the tone makes the music. You may have a very sensitive ear, but as a matter of fact, I have not changed either the tone or the content of our positions. These remain unchanged and determined.

[Ben-Menahem] Does Israel maintain the high alert it adopted some time ago?

[Arens] We are in a higher state of alertness and preparedness than on normal days.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, does the fact that Syria joined the anti-Iraq Arab coalition mean that it has left the circle of war against Israel?

[Arens] I hope so. I wish I could confirm that, but we have not yet discerned any signs to that effect. It may very well be that the fact that the Syrians are currently part of a coalition headed by the United States and alongside Egypt, which has already established peace with Israel, will expose them to many arguments, proposals, and perhaps even pressures to change their policy toward Israel and to take the path of peace with Israel. I cannot tell how the Syrians will react, but I hope they will react favorably. So far, we have not discerned any change.

[Ben-Menahem] Does the meeting between al-Asad and Bush not push Syria in the direction of a peace process?

[Arens] I hope so, and I assume so. I do not know the specifics of their talk, but I assume President Bush discussed the question of peace with Israel with al-Asad. We do not know what al-Asad's response was. At least as far as we are concerned, we have not received any hint or indication that he is prepared to follow in Egypt's footsteps.

[Ganor] Would you nevertheless like to believe that Syrian troops will fight against Iraq if hostilities break out?

[Arens] Syrian and Egyptian troops are deployed in Saudi Arabia alongside the U.S. and other forces. I cannot tell you whether they will take part in the fighting, but I suppose that if hostilities break out it will not be easy for troops deployed in the area not to take part.

[Ben-Menahem] May the anti-Iraq coalition not take advantage of the United States to promote a peace process with Israel once the Gulf crisis is over?

[Arens] This coalition was established for a special and definite purpose, which is to tackle Saddam Husayn. I do not conceive of any possibility that this coalition, which was put together in order to face Saddam's aggression and occupation, should all of a sudden turn against the State of Israel. The United States is an ally of Israel, but is not an ally of Iraq.

[Levi] That same coalition may equally, perhaps using less drastic measures, apply itself to the issue of the territories.

[Arens] I think those predictions are totally unfounded. As I said, the United States is not Israel's enemy, whereas it presently sees Iraq as an enemy. The United States does not consider Israel the enemy; on the contrary, we are friends. Only recently the U.S. Congress approved a very generous package of security aid to Israel as part of the U.S. budget. This was yet another expression, one of many, of the friendship between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] The United States expects the prime minister to bring along creative ideas concerning the promotion of the peace process in order to present them to President Bush in their meeting in two weeks. The question is: Will you, in your capacity as defense minister, equip the prime minister with new ideas regarding the situation and the policy in the territories?

[Arens] There is room for new ideas when the old ones are not good. I think the ideas the prime minister presented in Washington in May 1989, the Israeli Government's political initiative, are a very good plan, and I do not see any alternative to it. I think it is the only way to advance toward peace. We must—and I suppose the prime minister will try to do just that—go on recruiting support for this initiative throughout the world, particularly in the United States.

[Levi] Sir, but things have changed. Islamic fundamentalism is rising both inside and outside the territories, and there is also the Gulf crisis. Do these factors not call for at least some change or the presentation of ideas likely to change the policy advocated by the Israeli Government to date?

[Arens] What does the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the Arab world have to do with us? Must we say as a result that there is no need to pursue the political process, that we do not want to attain peace, or that we have despaired of the possibility of attaining peace with the Arab countries? I think we should not despair. Even if Islamic fundamentalism is rising in Jordan, we have not changed the position stated in our political initiative that we want to sit with Jordanians to hold negotiations on a peace process.

[Levi] Sir, but this enhances the view which has been frequently voiced that if we do not negotiate with the PLO we might have no choice but to negotiate with Islamic fundamentalists.

[Arens] I think those who say that are usually not great believers in the democratic process. Israel's political initiative states that we will conduct negotiations with those people who are elected in elections to be held in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District; that we will consider those elected to be the representatives with whom we will talk. We hope those elected are moderate and realistic people, but it is not for us to say.

[Ganor] Has there been any progress with regard to your proposal to hold elections in the territories?

[Arens] I would say so, in general terms. I cannot give you the date on which elections will be held because of the terror prevalent in the territories which has increased and is the main obstacle. I think Islamic extremism played a role in it, in addition to Fatah and other organizations. Attempted attacks by Palestinians on other Palestinians are an everyday phenomenon, with people being murdered every other day. A Swedish nurse was stabbed yesterday in Gaza, and people are murdered every day. For every person murdered you can count another five, six, or seven who are wounded. This is not the environment conducive to elections. I hope the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza helps create the conditions in which elections may be held without fear.

[Levi] Notwithstanding its overt and almost unqualified support for Saddam Husayn and his moves?

[Arens] If the local population does not want to take part in democratic elections to choose the representatives who would hold negotiations with us, then there will be no negotiations. I refuse to believe that. From the talks I have been holding I get the feeling that the great majority of the population is interested in elections.

[Ben-Menahem] Such a situation can last a long time.

[Arens] Look, the Israeli-Arab conflict has been going on for a long time; not through our failing, but because of the obstinacy and opposition of the Arab world, which has refused to come to terms with the existence of the State of Israel. The Egyptians were the first ones to break this opposition, and I hope the Palestinans are the ones who follow. [passage omitted]

Defense Chiefs Comment on Military Preparedness

Country Said 'Ready, Prepared'

TA3011084390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Israel is ready and prepared in the face of the Iraqi threat. It will know how to defend itself should the need arise. If Israel is attacked, its reaction will not be a low-profile one. These remarks were made this morning by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in a meeting with U.S. congressmen. Minister Arens said that Israel has invested many resources in order to deter aggression, and even defeat such aggression, should the situation require this.

Air Force on 'Highest' Alert

TA3011055790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The commander of the Air Force, Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, says the Israeli Air Force has been on the highest state of alert some months now to respond if Iraq follows through with its threat to attack Israel. Speaking in Tel Aviv last night, Gen. Bin-Nun said the Air Force would have to lead the way before other

branches of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in case of such an attack. He said the Air Force has been reinforced with advanced weaponry in an unprecedented short period of time to meet its growing needs.

Poll Shows Palestinians Expect Iraqi Victory

TA2911161790 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] Nabulus--In order to learn the views of the occupied territories residents' on the Gulf crisis and on how it might develop, the New AL-FAJR Press and Educational Services Office in Nabulus conducted a telephone poll of Nabulus residents during the past two weeks.

The number of residents polled was 670. They were chosen at random in accordance with the customary scientific and data bases, through the random selection of telephone numbers. Of the 670 residents, 550 agreed to answer the questions posed to them. The rest excused themselves from taking part in the poll, some giving reasons and others without giving reasons.

Four questions were posed to the participants, as follows:
The first question: Do you think that war will break out in the Gulf region?
The second question: When do you expect this war to break out?
The third question: In the event that war does break out, which side do you expect to win? Iraq or America?
The fourth question: If war breaks out, what do you expect its effect will be on the Palestinian problem?

The following results emerged:

The first question: 34 percent of the respondents believe that war will break out in the Gulf, while 66 percent do not expect the outbreak of war.

The results of the second question [asked of the 34 percent who believe war will break out] were as follows:
—27 percent expect war to break out during November;
—37 percent expect war to break out in two to three months;
—36 percent expect war to break out during the coming six months.

The results of the third question were as follows:
—54 percent believe that Iraq will triumph over America in the war;
—15 percent believe that America will triumph;
—31 percent believe that there will be no victor in the war.

As for reasons, it transpired that the reasons for the residents' belief in the victory of this or that side are as follows:
—42 percent believe in Iraq's victory for reasons connected to God's will;
—35 percent believe that Iraq will win because of its preparedness, good planning, and its ability to defend its soil;
—14 percent believe in Iraq's victory because of the force of justice and the resolve of nations;
—Two percent believe that since the armies facing Iraq are semimercenary, this will be a cause for Iraq's victory.

On the other hand, 83 persons believe that America will win in the event of a potential outbreak of war. The reasons being:
A. 54 persons, or 65 percent of this group, linked America's victory to the possession of superior forces, weapons, and equipment;
B. 20 percent believed that there is nothing that can hinder America from striking at Iraq or the Arabs;
C. 15 percent perceived the reason for America's potential victory is the Arabs' fragmentation.

The results of the fourth and last question were as follows:
—63 percent believe that should war break out, it will have a positive effect on the Palestinian problem;
—20 percent believe that war will have a negative effect on the Palestinian problem;
—17 percent believe that the war's effect on the Palestinian problem will be linked to the outcome of the war itself.

Challenges Facing New Chief of Staff Analyzed

TA3011104490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 5

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In an era of paralytic coalition politics and growing military challenges along, beyond, and within the nation's borders, the "ocean of responsibility" that is the CGS [chief of the General Staff] position has swelled and deepened. Racked by the ambiguities and humiliations of the intifadah and the Lebanese morass that preceded it, shackled by skyrocketing costs and shrinking budgets, increasingly rudderless in the face of internal dissension, one of the world's most formidable fighting machines has also become one of its most troubled.

Small wonder, then, that Defense Minister Arens this week turned to a man who for much of his career routinely managed the inconceivable, to take on what may be the most impossible mission the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] have yet devised—in the words of one senior commander, "bringing the army back to itself."

In some respects, the challenge that [Major General Ehud] Baraq is to inherit from present CGS Lt.-Gen. Dan Shomron has more to do with the stripped-down, demoralized, post-Independence Israeli army of the early and mid-1950s than with that of the cybernetic battlefield of the nineties. [passage omitted]

In the view of many observers, ongoing changes in Israeli society coupled with the violent, frustrating legacy of Lebanon and the intifadah have added a dangerous trend of reticence and laxity at the level of the individual soldier.

Senior commanders have suggested recently that the demoralization and the Rosh Qatan [Hebrew for small head] (anti-involvement) doctrine of anti-volunteerism have been potentiated by cuts in training time due to pressures of budget and border/territories patrol priorities.

Added to the morale and alertness problems prevalent among many troops, is a growing shortage of quality commanders in the crucial junior ranks of captain and major. Though part of the problem is demographic, military sources worry that the army's inability to compete materially or idealistically with the attractions of civilian life (in particular, with life abroad) will only worsen with rumored further cuts in officer benefits.

The result, many commanders fear, has been an erosion in the maintenance of the most fundamental tenet of IDF military doctrine, the ability of individual soldiers to function with confidence, flexibility, and potency when confronted with the unexpected.

Moreover, the relative luxury of the pre-Temple Mount lull in intifadah and border violence reinforced a tendency, charge critics of the Shomron tenure, to underestimate the opponent, and to keep the collective fingers firmly crossed in hopes that measures of caution would suffice to keep the lids on a multiplicity of seething pots.

Even before the gas and smoke cleared from the Temple Mount last month, however, it was already clear to senior military strategists that the rules of the game had changed once again, and irrevocably. As simultaneous hell broke loose on the highways, in the refugee camps, on the borders, and even on quiet Israeli side streets, emotional seismometers in the IDF senior command were running off the scale.

Shomron's aide for military evaluation and command readiness, Maj.-Gen. Moshe (Brill) Bar-Kokhva, submitted his resignation to Arens, complaining of the Chief of Staff's unwillingness to incorporate into the army lessons learned from past experience. Other officers privately echoed Bar-Kokhva's complaints, claiming that Shomron had stifled complaints in order not to make waves within both the defense and political sectors.

Though Bar-Kokhva was persuaded to delay his resignation, other personality conflicts exploded as the bloody weeks since the Temple Mount unfolded. A media-monitored confrontation between Shomron and OC [Officer in Command] Central Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay—a spat that may have effectively put a hold on both men's careers—followed the deadly terror penetration of a Jordan border IDF outpost earlier this month.

But the ugliness of the Shomron-Mordekhay power struggle, as well as a subsequent, well-publicized Bar-Kokhva blast at both Shomron and Baraq, may ironically help smooth the transition period for the incoming CGS.

As veterans of the General Staff have suggested, there is a healthy aspect to venting the interpersonal pressures built up under Shomron's administration. The Shomron-Mordekhay duel, with roots dating back to their days as young paratroopers, was best played out prior to the selection of the new GCS, insiders suggest.

Moreover, Bar-Kokhva's blistering open letter of resignation, released on Tuesday [27 November], is likely to open avenues of innovation that no internal memo could have approached. It is also likely, observers note, that the tragic events that saw ten Israeli soldiers killed in as many days, will result in a long-needed overhaul of IDF operational and training procedures.

Baraq, according to some officers, is in a unique position to put the IDF back on an offensive posture stressing imagination and execution, perhaps returning to the kinds of risky but potent deep-penetration anti-terror raids he himself led in the ultra-elite Sayeret Matkal (the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit).

He is also considered unlikely to repeat the errors that Shomron committed while playing the elaborate chess game that governs the workings of the General Staff. An example is the finesse with which the defense establishment is now courting both of Baraq's fellow candidates for the CGS position, reportedly offering both Intelligence Branch Chief Amnon Shahaq and OC Northern Command Yosi Peled a joint Deputy Chief of Staff position, in an effort to dissuade them from leaving the army.

Though they warn of a host of potential minefields still to be uncovered in Baraq's path, old acquaintances of the CGS-elect find no small reassurance in the stories of Ehud Baraq growing up as a quiet, hiking- and piano-obsessed boy on Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon.

In particular, they cite a competition in which young Ehud won first prize by successfully picking no fewer than 300 separate locks, one after the other.

Minister Sharon Outlines Immigrant Housing Plans

TA2911132290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpt] Enough housing will be available next year for the 300-400,000 immigrants expected, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset yesterday.

But because of the slow pace of construction, most of this housing will consist of caravans and prefabricated homes, he added.

Some 33,000 caravans will be purchased during fiscal 1991, providing housing for around 150,000 new immigrants. Funding for the caravans was included in the 1991 budget approved on Tuesday [27 November].

Prefabricated homes for another 120,000 will be placed primarily in the Negev and Galilee, Sharon said. Some 15,000 prefabs are in the final stages of completion, while work is beginning on the infrastructure for an additional 15,000 units.

Answering parliamentary questions on the country's preparedness to absorb the expected massive wave of new immigrants, Sharon also said the IDF [Israel

Defense Forces] had agreed to provide housing for 20,000 immigrants in barracks and vacation facilities.

Taking into account the slow pace of housing starts, Sharon predicted 30,000 new apartments would be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of 1991. According to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics, construction was begun on 27,700 apartments between January and the end of October 1990.

Sharon said the building of rental units will be encouraged by the ministry, although no final policy has been formulated. He predicted that thousands of apartments would become state property under purchase guarantees now being given to contractors, and that these apartments would be used for rental. [passage omitted]

Desalination Works With Egypt Proposed

TA2911145690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan has proposed that a joint Israeli-Egyptian sea water desalination installation be built either in the Sinai or the Gaza Strip. The agriculture minister made the proposal in a meeting with Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni.

Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that, in the meeting, Minister Eytan vehemently protested the terrorist attacks along the two countries' border. He said that such incidents cause irreversible damage to the delicate ties of peace between the two countries. Ambassador Basyuni replied that Egypt categorically rejects such acts and does all it can to prevent them.

Reservist Convicted of Illegal Exports to Colombia

TA2911130790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Reserve Colonel Ya'ir Klein, the director of Hod Hahanit Company, was convicted today upon his own admission of the unlicensed export of defense-related technologies and warfare equipment. Klein was charged in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court with training two Colombian farmers' organizations. The charges did not mention the allegation that the organizations were a drug cartel.

Another defendant, Yitzhaq Shoshani, did not plead guilty, and his case was therefore postponed.

Our legal affairs correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that soon Klein will be charged in court with exporting combat expertise to Antigua, and that only then will his sentence be passed.

Results of 27 Nov Incident Investigation Detailed

TA2911133990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing the debriefing of troops on the clash with terrorists in southern Lebanon on 27 November, in which five soldiers were killed. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Northern Command has already drawn some initial conclusions and begun their implementation.

The debriefing reveals that the preparations for the initiated operation had been good; the ambush location and troop deployment in the clash area were reasonable and in compliance with earlier drills; and the fire order was given at an appropriate moment. Nevertheless, the first barrage of fire lasted too long, and the unit wasted most of its ammunition. The soldiers erred in believing that all four terrorists had been killed and stormed the site with the feeling that they were going to find corpses and comb the area. The storming was carried out without backup; the gunfire was too sparse; and the troops exposed themselves and thus lost their edge.

At the same time, a senior officer told our correspondent that several questions pertaining to human dynamics and operational aspects will never be answered, as the unit commander and many of his soldiers were killed.

Intifadah-Territories Incidents Reported

28 November

TA2911125690

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST's Ron Kampeas, reporting on page 2 of the 29 November edition of this English-language daily, writes: "Residents of the Shu'fat refugee camp, in the capital's northeast, complained that the camp's water supply had been cut off completely this week. A [Jerusalem] municipal spokesman said that, if the small supply of water to the camp had been cut off, it was most likely the work of intifadah activists.

"The municipality has been limiting water to the camp since summer, following an extended dispute between residents and the municipality over payment of water bills. The West Bank Civil Administration had been paying the camp's water bills until January 1989, when it transferred responsibility for the camp to the municipality. Since then, residents have refused to pick up the bills, saying the camp is the responsibility of Israel and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency]."

Reporting on page 10 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Matthew Seriphs writes: "The military court in Gaza sentenced 'Imad 'Abd al-Banna, 22, to life imprisonment for the murder of a man he suspected of aiding the authorities. Al-Banna was convicted of belonging to a 'people's committee' which murdered Husni al-Shahin with knives and axes on Gaza beach, the Army said.

"In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, 14-year-old Mahmud Falah was shot in the chest during a clash and hospitalized in Tulkarm Hospital.

"Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Popular Front all condemned the killing of Yusuf Abu-Zaytun, the school principal from Yasid found dead Tuesday [27 November]. Three teenagers, arrested for the murder, admitted that they had interrogated him, but said they had not meant to kill him."

Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er, reporting on page A2 of the 29 November issue of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, note: "Security elements expressed their opinion yesterday that extremist organizations such as the Islamic Jihad and Hamas will continue to attack foreign workers in the territories due to the anger with the Western countries over the Persian Gulf crisis. There is great sympathy toward Saddam Husayn in the Gaza Strip, and in the city's streets the locals fly the Iraqi flag and brandish Saddam Husayn's portrait as an almost daily occurrence. 'It was only a matter of time before they would start attacking foreign workers,' a security source said.

"It was reported yesterday that in light of the attempted killing of the Swedish nurse the police might consider stationing guards at places where foreign workers are employed, but they will only do so upon request of the foreign bodies."

Later in their report, they add: "A procession of 30 masked individuals belonging to the Communist Party was staged in the Nabulus casbah yesterday. The general strike declared in Tulkarm following the violent clash this week, in which four were injured by bullets and dozens others inhaled tear gas, continues. The two-day curfew was lifted in the Shuwaykah neighborhood of Tulkarm yesterday."

Writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 November, 'Imanu'el Rosen claims that the Army will begin distributing a "red book" to the soldiers in the territories next week, "outlining orders, regulations, instructions on conduct, and the definition of duties for intifadah missions.

"Among other things, engagement rules and the use of plastic, rubber, or other bullets is detailed. The book also includes the chief of staff's instruction: 'We will continue to perform our duties and overcome the violence, preserving the principles of law, morality, and discipline, even in the face of difficulties.'"

29 November

TA3011112090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 18

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] Palestinians yesterday observed a general strike declared by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] group to protest against the 1947 UN partition resolution.

In an isolated clash in al-Duhayshah camp, two youths were shot in the head by rubber bullets, and in Janin, the body of an alleged "Israeli agent" was found.

Troop presence in the territories was reinforced and some towns were declared closed military areas, but few disturbances were reported.

The PLO-allied Unified Command did not call for a strike to protest against the partition resolution. The PLO officially supports a two-state solution, but Hamas opposes the existence of a Jewish state and calls for the liberation of "all Palestine." [passage omitted]

Military sources said soldiers opened fire in al-Duhayshah, near Bethlehem, when youths stoned a military post. A curfew was imposed after the incident.

The two who were shot, Hazim Abu-'Aqur, 20, and Ahmad Muhammad Halawi, 24, were in moderate condition, al-Maqasid Hospital sources said.

Lufti Sa'di, 51, from Tulkarm refugee camp, whose body was found in Janin Wednesday [28 November] night, was killed by teenagers who called themselves the "Black Panther" and claimed Sa'di was an Israeli agent. He had been stabbed with a sharp object in the neck and burned on several parts of his body, Palestinian sources said.

The Ramallah military court yesterday sentenced three members of the Palestinian "Masked Lion" gang to life imprisonment. Those sentenced, Mahmud Jassu, 'Abd-al-Rahim Zayid, Muhammad Haysha Kubayza, were convicted of killing three alleged collaborators, and attempting to murder two others.

[Writing on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Matthew Seriphs reports: Fifty-five residents of the al-Burayj refugee camp have been charged in the Gaza military court with the murder of IDF, Israel Defense Forces, reservist Amnon Pomerantz, the IDF reported. Fifty-one of the accused were charged with stoning Pomerantz's car and the others were accused of setting the vehicle alight.

[The report adds that "gasoline bombs were thrown at an army patrol in Gaza, but did not cause any injury or damage.

["Curfews were imposed on the Bayt Lahiyah housing project and Jabalyah and al-Nusayrat refugee camps, the IDF reported, adding that a general strike took place in the Gaza Strip yesterday and that some clashes took place.

["ITIM said the body was discovered of a Palestinian killed on suspicion of cooperating with Israel. The report said that Fayiz al-'Attar was killed by the members of a Hamas strike committee, which claimed responsibility for the killing.

["ITIM also reported that a decision had been taken to extend the closure of universities in the territories for an additional three months."]

Husayn Discusses UN Credibility, Shamir Remarks

JN2911125390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Nov pp 1,5

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Amman (Petra)—His Majesty King Husayn has described Israel's declared plan to retain Palestinian land from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea to absorb Jewish immigrants as a strong blow directed at those who still hope that the Arab-Israeli conflict is nearing a peaceful and just settlement based on international legitimacy.

The recent declaration made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has "exposed Israel's relations with regard to the future of the Palestinian land in flagrant disregard of international legitimacy," the King said in a message addressed to the special United Nations Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians.

Shamir's open statement constitutes a flagrant defiance of the United Nations and the world community which has been hoping to apply a new international order which respects human rights and the right of people to self-determination," said the King in his message.

Celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People last year coincided with drastic changes in Eastern Europe leading to an end to confrontation between East and West and opened the door for hope and cooperation and paved the way for an end to injustices and oppression to democracy and respect of human rights," the King said. "Where does Israel stand with regard to such changes and how does Israel deal with the new world mood?" asked the King.

"A close look at Israel's stand with regard to the Palestine question can easily and clearly expose the fact that Israel has defied the world when it colonised Palestine while the colonial era was being liquidated, and it is now defying the world once again when the nations of the world are moving to reaffirm the rights of all peoples to self-determination and respect of human rights," the King said.

Shamir is now providing new evidence of Israel's defiance of the world community by moving from the stage of colonising Palestine into the stage of annexing all of its territory and uprooting all its Palestinian people to absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants, the King said.

"The United Nations, which played a basic role in liquidating colonialism and continues to play an effective role in safeguarding human rights, should, now more than any time in the past, come to the defence of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on its soil," the King demanded.

"We support a call for providing protection to the Palestinians from Israeli oppression as soon as possible," he said. "It is true that such a call seems to be a retreat from the international community's course of action to help find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine problem but Israel's repression of the Palestinians aimed at stifling the intifada makes it an essential and urgent humanitarian demand because the Palestinians are in need of protection from such massacres as the one committed on Oct. 8 near Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem," King Husayn said.

"Two years ago, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, offered a peaceful initiative, but Israel ignored it to reaffirm once again that it is influenced by its ideology of extremism and expansionism and cannot consider the Palestinians as people," the King said.

"Israel considers the Palestinian intifada as an act of terrorism and the call for peace as a trick. Hence if neither moderation nor extremism is acceptable to Israel what does Israel want?"

"I am afraid that the answer was provided by Israel's prime minister when he said that he had to retain the whole of the Palestinian land from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean sea in implementation of a mission set for him by his predecessors," the King said.

"Israel's stand with regard to Palestine leaves no choice for the Palestinian people, which offered thousands of martyrs over the past three years, no alternative but to pursue the struggle against the repressive rule of Israel which continues to occupy Arab land by force of arms and by repression.

In addition to killing and detaining people, Israel is pursuing the policy of mass arrests, economic oppression and demolition of Arab homes at a time when Soviet Jews continue to flood the Arab territories in flagrant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people," the King said. "Such actions are not only an outright aggression on the Palestinians but a real security threat to Jordan."

"The positive changes which the world witnessed in the past year brought about further confidence to the United Nations Organisation and gave credibility to its responsibilities which aim at safeguarding peace," the King continued. "Jordan, which is located in the heart of the Middle East region, has been suffering directly from the failure of the application of international legitimacy concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it feels that it is its right to ask about the United Nations role with regard to the Palestine issue and the Security Council resolutions regarding that issue because they are no less important and binding than those resolutions issued on the Kuwait issue," King Husayn said.

The unusual United Nations involvement with such enthusiasm in the process of implementing international law with regard to the Gulf crisis and its negligence to implement the same international law with regard to the

Palestine issue has presented the world with an unacceptable image from the ethical and legal aspects, showing that the U.N. organisation is handling matters in two different measures," the King said.

He said that in the light of these events the United Nations "is facing a major challenge to prove itself as an organisation for all nations and mankind without differentiating between one region and another or between one crisis and another."

"We stress to all those bragging about international legitimacy these days that we respect this legitimacy but we need to believe you and need to trust your words," the King said.

"In order to achieve this, there is only one way: To prove that international legitimacy is an indivisible and integral concept," the King said.

"The people of this region of the world which had been the cradle of religions and cultures deserves to enjoy peace, security and stability and the Palestinian people, like other peoples of the world, deserve to be given their national and inalienable rights to exercise them on their national soil. Do we have hope for peace in our region? We who had been always committed to backing the United Nations' efforts for peace hope that the United Nations will abide by its commitment morally and politically and call for an international peace conference on the Middle East so that international legitimacy can be implemented immediately upon the termination of the Gulf crisis through peaceful means.

"The Palestine question and the Gulf crisis, which are located in one region of the world, constitute a real threat to world stability and security. They are linked to a great extent and on more than one front. Therefore, dealing with both issues in a practical manner is the most sound and successful way to achieve peace and justice and enhance the United Nations' credibility and trust in international legitimacy.

"I salute your committee and appreciate its efforts to bring about true and concrete international solidarity with the Palestinian people."

Yemeni Foreign Minister Discusses UN Resolution

JN2911221290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Republic of Yemen's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Amman today following a visit to Jordan during which he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn a message from his brother His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. Prior to departure, Dr. al-Iryani answered questions by the Radio and Television Corporation correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What does your excellency have to say after the meeting with his majesty the king?

[Al-Iryani] Thank you very much. I have been honored with a meeting with his majesty the king, to whom I conveyed a message from his brother His Excellency Gen. Lt. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. Undoubtedly the greatest common concern is the developments of the situation in the region and the situation which is getting more dangerous every day, especially in light of the dangerous resolution adopted by the United States and that is about to be put to the vote today. This is an extremely serious resolution that very much obstructs the serious efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis.

I listened to his majesty the king talk about this matter and about what can be done to avert catastrophe, and I will convey what I heard to his Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Moreover, it was a good opportunity to consult with my colleague, Marwan al-Qasim. As you know, praise be to God, the Jordanian-Yemeni position is identical in every detail. Neither of us has any other concern but to reach a peaceful solution and to extricate the region from the cycle of destruction it is about to fall into.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, what is your assessment of the efforts of the Yemeni representative at the Security Council in light of the double-standard policy at the council?

[Al-Iryani] In fact, during its month-long chairmanship the United States made it unambiguously clear that it is playing a double role under the banner of international legitimacy. A resolution has been agreed upon with the representative of the state of Palestine. It was prepared, discussed, and studied for more than 24 days. However, the president of the Security Council continued to delay putting it to a vote by the council on the pretext of the need to hold unofficial consultations and then to demand certain amendments. Then this week there almost was an exposed objection to presenting the resolution to the council. At the last moment yesterday, or rather in fact the day before yesterday, they insisted that the resolution not be put to procedural vote next Monday. Naturally, the matter will then be easy because the chairmanship will be delivered to Yemen.

Nevertheless, one can term this situation a classic case [preceding two words in English] of double standards, especially since the resolution no longer contains what would embarrass the United States a great deal, as the protection of the occupied territories was assigned to UNTSO [United Nations Truce and Supervision Organization] and to a person who represents the secretary general to watch from a distance—action at a distance [preceding four words in English]. However, this is still unacceptable to the United States. We think it will use the veto or it may abstain. However, it does not want to expose these intentions before the extremely dangerous resolution that will result in the destruction of the region is passed. This, most regrettably, is the position of the United States that says it is leading the world in the new world order. And this is the kind and type of leadership.

[Reporter] Hence, can we say that this procrastination is the world's gift to the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people that is being marked today?

[Al-Iryani] Undoubtedly, in my view it is actually condemnation of U.S. policy. This is a form of self-condemnation. Praise be to God, it is not us who condemned them.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Al-Iryani] Thank you. [end recording]

Finance Minister Views Crisis Effects on Budget

JN2911123990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Nov 90 pp 1,5

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Gulf crisis has left acute negative effects on Jordan's economy causing a decline in the gross national product (GNP) and a noticeable drop in the Kingdom's foreign exchange revenues which consequently required a revision of the country's economic restructuring programme, Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah said Wednesday.

The minister, who will present the 1991 fiscal budget to parliament Sunday, said that the government was forced to work out a comprehensive economic framework capable of dealing with the new developments and achieving internal balance in the state's financial situation from now and until 1995 instead of 1993. Jardanah said that it is hoped that the new programme will stabilize the country's balance of payments, but should this prove impossible then the target would be achieved in 1997.

In the light of these concepts, the minister said, the government has prepared the 1991 fiscal budget but it had to take into account the following:

A. Preparing an ordinary budget of JD [Jordanian Dinars] 1,119,200,000 of which JD 889,200,000 will go for current expenditure and JD 230 million for capital expenses;

B. Preparing an emergency budget of JD 120 million which will rely on additional sums coming in the form of grants and foreign aid as well as soft loans. This budget aims: (a) to help Jordan work out an expenses programme to deal with any influx of returnees to Jordan including Jordanian expatriates who used to work in the Gulf; and (b) to process foreign financial revenues coming in the form of soft loans.

The minister said that the following principles were taken into account when the 1991 budget was prepared:

—assessments of the 1991 local revenues in real terms taking into consideration the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis indicate an estimated revenues of JD 702.5 million, down from JD 746.1 million in 1990;

—allocation of sufficient funds for current expenses and refraining from any increase in expenses except when it is very essential so as to ensure the following:

a. continued social sevices;
b. continued support for the Armed Forces;
c. continued subsidies of basic food commodities;
d. continued subsidies for local production;
e. supporting the judicial system in Jordan; and
f. dealing effectively with the unemployment issue and enabling Vocational Training Corporation to increase the number of trainees from 10,000 in 1990 to 14,000 in 1991, and through creating new jobs in government departments for about 2,000 people in 1991 and expanding projects in school building and agricultural projects;

C. Making available funds for capital projects, and in this respect an amount of JD 230 million has been allocated;

D. Giving attention to organisational issues aimed at ensuring control over financial matters.

The minister summed up the budget situation by noting the following:

The total local revenues for 1991 were estimated at JD 902.5 million, down from JD 938.7 million in 1990.

The total expenses for 1991 were estimated at JD 889.2 million, up from JD 849 million in 1990 while the capital expenses are estimated at JD 230 million down from JD 245 million in 1990;

The 1991 budget has a deficit of JD 216.7 million compared with JD 187.4 million in 1990;

In the 1991 budget the government plans to settle foreign and local debts with a total of JD 135.2 million, up from JD 87.5 million in 1990;

In the 1991 budget, the government allocated JD 351.9 million for development projects, up from JD 274 million in 1990.

Jardanah said that the government expects to receive a total of JD 475.6 million from foreign financial sources in the coming year in the form of aid and internal and external loans.

Saudi Authorities Reportedly Turn Back Trucks

JN2911094190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Informed sources have said the Saudi authorities are turning back trucks and cars crossing through the al-Mudawwarah border post to Saudi Arabia.

The sources said that in the past few days, the Saudi authorities have turned back from the Halat 'Ammar area [the Saudi border post with Jordan] trucks loaded with cargo from Egypt and Turkey because the drivers did not have entry visas. The authorities also turned back Jordanian refrigerator trucks loaded with Turkish cargo or vegetables from Egypt, especially if the drivers were Jordanians or their passports have been stamped by the Iraqi authorities.

Army To Deploy in Al-Tuffah 3 Dec

NC2911204190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dallul has announced that the Army will deploy in Iqlim al-Tuffah on Monday [3 December]. Dallul, who met today with Minister Nabih al-Bizri and a Palestinian delegation in Sidon, said following the meeting that all gunmen will withdraw from Iqlim al-Tuffah prior to the deployment of the Army in that area.

'Gunmen' Begin Evacuating Positions

NC3011143890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Gunmen began withdrawing from their positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah this afternoon as a prelude to the deployment of the Army there. The move was preceded by a series of preparatory meetings including one that was held at the Iranian Embassy today and attended by the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian militry intelligence in Lebanon], Minister Nabih Birri, and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

Al-Hirawi Cites New Ambassador on U.S. Support

NC3011081090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi revealed yesterday evening that Ryan Crocker, the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, had told him: Prepare the army, take over the southern area, and ask your friends like the United States to seek the implementation of Resolution 425.

Crocker emphasized the need for a national will to materialize in the present circumstances for the good of the homeland, as well as the need for everyone to repudiate any issue that harms the unity of the homeland. He welcomed constructive opposition; that is opposition by the word and not by the gun.

President al-Hirawi made this disclosure when he received a delegation representing the editors association led by association president Milhim Karam at 1600 yesterday.

Meanwhile Ryan Crocker has renewed his country's support for Lebanese legitimacy and the three leaders [President al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister al-Huss], as well as for the legitimate government's policy based on finding a peaceful solution to the Lebanse crisis, a solution that will guarantee Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence. He affirmed: We will not accept anything short of a completely sovereign and free Lebanon. He described Greater Beirut as an important step in the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and proof that the Lebanese can lead this homeland along the path of peace and national reconciliation.

He regarded the progress he has seen as encouraging, and indicated that the resumption of the U.S. Embassy's activities depends on the adequacy of the security climate. He said that when all the hostages are released, we will have an encouraging situation with which all of us will be satisfied.

British Embassy Denies Report on Ending Activities

NC2911180890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The British Embassy's media office has issued the following statemeent:

The British Embassy in Beirut would like to point out that the statement attributed to the British ambassador yesterday—that the embassy has no intention of resuming its activity even if the Greater Beirut Plan is implemented—is untrue. The embassy also would like to point out that it did not leave Beirut nor did it stop carrying out its work at its offices in al-Rawshah or Jall al-Dhi'b. The statement added that the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan, which the embassy welcomes, will not change these arrangements.

SLA Warns Villagers Against Aiding 'Terrorists'

TA3011104690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Dozens of southern Lebanese villagers from the Har Dov area have been summoned to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] headquarters in the township of Hasbayya in the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the SLA personnel warned the villagers against any attempt to cooperate with the terrorists. If they do, they will meet with severe punishments.

Ja'ja' Views Beirut, Decentralization, Junblatt

NC2911141290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stated that the Lebanese Forces have no problem with any party which was involved in the al-Ta'if agreement. He denied that he has a veto against anyone entering the government.

In an interview which will be published tomorrow in the AL-HAWADITH and LE REVUE DU LIBAN magazines and the AL-BAYRAQ newspaper, Dr. Ja'ja' refused to regard Greater Beirut as tantamount to a return to the province system. He noted that the formation of a new government will follow the establishment of Greater Beirut. This will be followed by two equally important priorities: First, completing the political discussion regarding Lebanon's future and the imposition of the state's authority; and second, the acceptable regulation of the economy and society.

The Lebanese Forces commander maintained that decentralization is one basis on which the Lebanese state

must be founded. He said that the al-Ta'if agreement was achieved with total Arab and international support. It established a certain framework for Lebanese-Syrian relations. We support this idea. We are conducting all our activities within the framework of the Lebanese legitimacy. We support the al-Ta'if agreement with conviction, and we will try to promote this agreement. [passage omitted]

Asked why some people regard the national resistance in the south as outside the framework of the militias, Dr. Ja'ja' called for avoiding one-upmanship in the south. He noted that the problem is not intractable and that the key to a solution lies in the Lebanese state. [passage omitted]

Regarding the appointment of deputies, Dr. Ja'ja' said that the appointment issue is being raised without real conviction because no other solution has been found. I prefer speeding up the consolidation of security. Perhaps then we could hold some sort of elections.

Responding to a question, Dr. Ja'ja' rejected the idea of giving the defense portfolio to Minister Walid Junblatt. He said that such a ministry should not be given to a person who spends this time moving around between Azerbaijan, Tehran, Moscow, and Paris. [passage omitted]

Rizq Praises Junblatt's Efforts in Mountain

NC2211150790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Statement by Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq following a meeting with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt at the al-Mukhtarah Palace in al-Shuf District on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] For us the mountain is the heart of Lebanon, and this house represents one of the pillars in the mountain and in Lebanon. Our alliance with His Excellency Minister Walid Junblatt is one of neighbors. It is an alliance of our joint struggle and of our reliance on one Lebanon, the civilized Lebanon which tolerates no discrimination and which insists on safeguarding the unity of the Lebanese family.

The amity and love we felt in the areas near al-Mukhtarah, in the very heart of this mountain, and in Dayr al-Qamar are practical expressions of Minister Junblatt's efforts. We hope that such expressions will prevail throughout Lebanon so that noble Lebanon, the Lebanon of national unity and dignity, will rise again.

Officials, Press Comment on Resumed Ties With UK

Al-Shar' 'Confident'

JN2911165890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1520 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Mrs. Victoria Owens, Australia's ambassador in Damascus. She handed him a note saying that Australia will cease to be in charge of the interests of the United Kingdom in Syria. This comes as a result of the announcement that the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom had resumed diplomatic relations.

Afterward, the foreign minister received Mr. (Shizoryiah), British charge d'affaires in Damascus, who said he was extremely happy with the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He also said that he was optimistic and confident that the two countries would build strong ties in the future.

For his part, Mr. al-Shar' thanked the Australian ambassador for her work as the person in charge of British interests in Damascus. Speaking to the British charge d'affaires, the foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the return to normal relations, emphasizing Syria's desire to promote and enhance them in the interests of the two people and countries.

The British Foreign Office and the Syrian Foreign Ministry have begun to form committees to study the measures and restrictions the two countries had adopted when diplomatic relations were severed, so as to submit the recommendations required to the competent authorities in the two countries to eliminate these measures and restrictions as soon as possible.

Press Lauds Restored Relations

JN3011103490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on Syria's successful policy, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: After being severed for a number of years, Syrian-British ties were restored following an agreement between the governments of the two states in which the two parties gave assurances to take principled positions on a number of regional and international issues. The restoration of ties at this stage demonstrates the excellent ability of Syria, under President al- Asad, to formulate an influential and effective foreign policy that can convey to others Syria's opinions and ideas, which are based on a firm and objective policy and strong pan-Arab and humanitarian bases.

Syria is an international center in the service of the Arab people's supreme national interests. The basis, which Britain decided itself, of the document on the restoration of ties gives additional evidence of the success of the Syrian policy to influence positions taken by various states for the benefit of Arabs and their critical issues, especially since Britain has pledged to play a positive role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of its belief in the importance of the international conference.

AL-THAWRAH says: This constitutes a positive development in Britain's policy. It was achieved as a result of Syria's ability to hold dialogue with the others using convincing argument and logic. Syria, which has extensive relations with many world states, does not set conditions on relations with any country except that the position of the country on the Arab-Israeli conflict must be fair and not based on blind bias in favor of Israel and its aggression against the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The restoration of Syrian-British ties on such a clear basis confirms Syria's ability to wield diplomatic influence abroad. The restoration of ties is also a gain and a triumph for the Arab struggle and the Arabs' national interests.

NPF Cited on Call for Iraqi Withdrawal

JN3011134590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Another Honest Call Before it Is Too Late," AL-BA'TH dealt in its editorial today with the Central Command of the National Progressive Front's [NPF] affirmation in its meeting the day before yesterday that the prelude to finding a way out of the Gulf crisis and eliminating the danger of explosion lies in an immediate Iraqi response to the resolution of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo. This called for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to this Arab country and would avert further sufferings and tragedies from Iraq and its people.

AL-BA'TH said in its editorial that, when the NPF expresses such a stand, it means that Syria also expresses the same stand with determination, strength, and persistence. The NPF is Syria, with all its parties, bodies, and officials, and its call is an honest call from Syria to spare Iraq and its army tragedies and suffering and the possible results of its continued stubbornness, risks, distance from reality, ignorance, and disregard for the balance of power in the world.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria has said what it had to say and addressed its honest call. As it issued its honest and pure call from the first week of the crisis through its struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, it renews its honest and pure call to the brothers in Iraq to rectify the mistake and return to the correct path before the crisis sets in and it is too late. This call stems from the depth of its sense of pan-Arab responsibility toward the brothers in Iraq and in the name of the NPF in Syria, including all its parties, forces, and personalities in the hope that it will not fall on deaf ears in Baghdad.

Ba'th Party Officer Meets Kuwaiti Delegation

JN2911150790 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade 'Adballah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received the Kuwaiti popular delegation headed by Ahmad al-Saffaf. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

The talks focused on the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait and its negative and serious effects on the people of Kuwait, the Arab nation, the region, and the world on more than one level.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that the Iraqi regime's action on 2 August is condemnable by all pan-Arab, national, and moral standards. He said: An end to the new disaster caused by this aggression on the fraternal Kuwaiti people can be accomplished by Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, with no restrictions or conditions, and the return of legitimate authority. He added: We, in Syria, have been working toward this end and seek to reach it peacefully, yet it all depends on the position of the Iraqi regime itself. He stressed that the withdrawal alone would save the people of iraq and the Arab nation from a destructive disaster.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained Syria's position which stems from the higher pan-Arab interest, which takes into consideration saving the people of Kuwait and Iraq from the disaster caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

For his part, al-Saffaf highly valued the pan-Arab Syrian position under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the efforts to bring about the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy.

Bangladesh

Ershad To Help Seek Release of EEC Hostages

BK2911131890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The EEC has sought the assistance of President Ershad in obtaining the release of their nationals being held hostage by Iraq. A delegation of ambassadors of seven EEC countries based in Dhaka called on President Ershad Thursday [29 November] morning to convey their request. The delegation was led by Mr. (Santro Mario Stigia) of Italy, which is the current chairman of the European Community. The EEC reprsentative in Bangladesh was also present. The seven European ambassadors also sought the assistance of President Ershad in convincing Iraq to receive a representative of the UN secretary general in Baghdad.

President Ershad told the delegation that Bangladesh is opposed to anyone being taken hostage by anybody under any pretext. He also assured them that Bangladesh will take the matter of release of the nationals of EEC countries being held up by Baghdad with the Iraqi authority at the appropriate level. President Ershad also reiterated the position of Bangladesh on the Gulf crisis which calls for complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from occupied Kuwait and restoration of its legitimate government.

The foreign ministers of the EEC at their recent meeting decided to seek the assistance of several countries, including Bangladesh, in obtaining the release of their nationals being held by Iraq.

Curfew Relaxed, Journalists Continue Blackout

BK3011052290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 30 (AFP) - Curfew was relaxed for seven hours Friday in the capital and three other major districts of Bangladesh, the national television announced.

Dhaka was apparently calm after the relaxation of curfew and vehicles were seen on the roads, though fewer than usual, following President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's declaration of a state of emergency late Tuesday.

Demonstrators in northeastern Sylhet District damaged a government office and attacked the home of a ruling Jatiya Party member Thursday, forcing police to open fire, the television said, adding that one person was injured in the incident.

Journalists continued with their news blackout for the third straight day Friday in protest against Mr. Ershad's proclamation, which included the introduction of press censorship.

It was not yet decided when the blackout would end.

Unconfirmed reports said police guards had been withdrawn from the Dhanmandi residence of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who was put under house arrest soon after the emergency was declared.

Telephones to her home were either not being answered or were still disconnected, and it was not clear if she had been freed.

Authorities have not said anything on the opposition leader's arrest.

A joint statement of the three major opposition alliances signed by Pankaj Bhattacharya of the National Awami Party called on the public to continue with their civil disobedience until the objective of the opposition's eight-year-old campaign to bring down Mr. Ershad was successful.

It also paid homage to those killed in the agitation of the previous two days and congratulated the public for defying emergency orders.

Sheikh Hasina had said Thursday that at least 50 people were gunned down and hundreds more injured when troops opened fire to quell demonstrations on Wednesday.

The government has made no comment on death reports during the demonstrations, in which protestors clashed with police and paramilitary troops. Other unconfirmed reports by individual eye-witnesses have put the toll at between five and 20.

The television said that the curfew, which was lifted for four hours Thursday, would be further relaxed from 8:00 A.M. (0200 GMT) until 3:00 P.M. (0900 GMT) Friday, the day of prayer in Moslem Bangladesh.

It would then be reimposed until further order, the announcement said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ershad has congratulated the new British Prime Minister John Major and expressed his hope that ties between Dhaka and London would be further strengthened during his tenure, the state-run Bangladesh radio reported Friday.

He said Dhaka and London always enjoyed the best of relations and Britain had been a dependable partner in the development efforts of Bangladesh.

Ministry Says Situation 'Considerably Calm'

BK2911162490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Ministry of Home Affairs, in a press note, says the situation throughout Bangladesh was considerably calm on the second day today of the imposition of state of emergency. Some isolated cases of incidents occurred in some places of the country, but the situation remained under control due to the timely steps taken by the law enforcing agencies.

At Sylhet, the mob tried to set fire the local electricity office and the house of the zilla [district] board chairman. Besides, the mob also set fire to the car of the executive engineer of the housing and settlement directorate. In the circumstances, the police had to open five rounds of fire to disperse the unruly mob and also resorted to lathi [baton] charge. As a result, one person was injured. The press note says, the situation is now under control of the adminsitration.

The press note further said the students of Chittagong and Jahangirnagar universities left their residential halls, following the closure of the universities. The situation of four major cities of the country remained normal during the curfew relaxation period from 0600 to 1000 [0000 to 0400 GMT] this morning. The press note said it is the moral responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people. The government hopes that all concerned quarters will extend allout cooperation in maintaining law and order in the country.

Fighting Continues; Ershad Meets Diplomats

BK2911120290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—Sporadic fighting continued here Thursday between security forces and anti-government demonstrators after clashes in the capital and other parts of the country left at least 50 people dead, according to the opposition.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League, said in a statement that 50 people were killed and hundreds injured when troops opened fire to quell demonstrations Wednesday following a declaration of a state of emergency late Tuesday by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Ershad met with Western diplomats at his office in Tejgaon, close to the Dhaka cantonment military barracks, adding the meeting was a scheduled one.

"We discussed mainly the Gulf issue with the president," one diplomat said. No other details were available.

Gunshots rang out Thursday in Sutrapur, a densely populated residential district, as troops again fired on demonstrators, witnesses said. Thousands of demonstrators ignored emergency regulations to stage a massive rally in the west of the capital.

The national television went on air at 12:00 P.M. (0600 GMT) for a special broadcast but showed only reruns of football matches and old films. It was earlier reported Mr. Ershad was to make an important announcement on state television at any moment.

The station later aired a brief report saying Mr. Ershad had met with police and praised them for their hard work during "difficult times" over the last two months.

State-run Radio Bangladesh said the president visited a construction site in the outskirts of the capital and was warmly received by the people there.

Meanwhile fighting was reported in at least two other Dhaka districts where residents said protestors were stoning security forces and setting light to piles of tyres to barricade roads.

Fighting continued in other areas of the country and sources said the home of Mr. Ershad's parents in Rangpur District in the north had come under attack by opposition supporters.

Demonstrators had also attacked the home of the parents of Mr. Ershad's wife, Begum Raushan Ershad, in Mymensingh District in the north, sources said.

Sheik Hassina, Bangladesh's top opposition leader, and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, were put under house arrest in a police swoop only hours before the state of emergency was declared.

Police also arrested BNP senior leader Mir Shaukat Ali, a retired lieutenant general and former ambassador under the Ershad government, party sources said. The homes of other opposition leaders were also raided.

Sheikh Hasina's statement, released by party workers on her behalf, called on the public to intensify action to overthrow Mr. Ershad, 61, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1982. She also called on the civil administration, army, police and paramilitary forces to remain neutral.

The government has made no comment on reports of deaths during the demonstrations, the culmination of an opposition-led campaign to oust Mr. Ershad and call general elections. Police said at least 464 were arrested for violating curfew regulations.

Mr. Ershad said late Tuesday the state of emergency was declared because the country's internal security and economic life were endangered by a wave of opposition-led strikes and demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile reliable sources said residents living within Dhaka's military barracks, the country's largest, had been told to remain indoors and all traffic had been ordered off the roads. Mr. Ershad's official residence, and the homes of the military top brass, are in the compound.

(In Calcutta a West Bengal state government spokesman said India's land border with Bangladesh was "normal" but the Border Security Force (BSF) had been on precautionary alert since emergency rule was imposed there.

(A spokesman for Bangladesh's Biman airlines said the first flight from Dhaka had arrived here early Thursday after a day-long suspension of all flights in and out of the country Wednesday.

(No details on other flights were immediately available, but a Bangladesh deputy high commission spokesman said there were reports another flight would land later in the day.

(The spokesman said the commission was issuing visas normally, and there was a lengthy queue outside its visa section.)

$50 Million Trade Accord Signed With Hungary

BK3011085490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Bangladesh and Hungary have signed a trade agreement for exchange of goods and commodities worth $50 million each way. After signing of the protocol, satisfaction was expressed over the growing and economic and friendly relationship between the two countries.

Air Force Chief Departs for Pakistan Visit

BK3011004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2009 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—Chief of the Bangladesh Air Force Air Vice Marshall Mumtazuddin Ahmed has left for Pakistan on a week's visit, the national television reported.

It said the air chief, who left Dhaka for Islamabad Wednesday, would hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart and visit different defence installations.

India

Six Fatally Shot by Punjab 'Terrorists'

BK2911163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, six persons were killed and seven injured in Ludhiana this evening, when some unidentified terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in four localities of the city. The killed include four security personnel. According to the official spokesman, the police later chased the terrorists and recovered the bullet-ridden jeep used by the terrorists. Elsewhere in the state, 12 persons, including three terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents during last 24 hours.

One Killed, Five Injured in Punjab Bomb Blast

BK3011055190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, one person was killed and five were injured in a powerful bomb blast near Shimlapuri locality of Ludhiana City last night. According to an official spokesman, the bomb was lobbed at a group of people by four scooter-borne terrorists at about 9 p.m. The spokesman said the same group of terrorists earlier shot at and injured a liquor van employee on the outskirts of the city.

Army Overruns Five Guerrilla Camps in Assam

BK3011055690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 30 (AFP)—Indian Army troops hunting insurgents in Assam have overrun five large guerrilla training camps in the forests of the troubled northeastern frontier state, press reports said Friday.

The camps, heavily booby-trapped with explosives similar to those used by Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka, were located in thick jungles mined with improvised devices, army officials were quoted as saying.

Guerrillas of the secessionist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) had abandoned some of them ahead of the army sweep launched Wednesday, hours after New Delhi dismissed the state government for failing to tackle the insurgency.

ULFA activists detonated bombs at a camouflaged camp near the oil town of Digboi when troops stormed the place Thursday, the HINDU DAILY said. The camp was equipped with high-power electricity generators, television sets and video recorders.

The newspaper also reported "virtually continuous shooting" between troops and guerrillas Wednesday in the district of Tinsukia, citing unidentified sources, but mentioned no casualties in either incident.

One army soldier and one ULFA activist were earlier reported to have died during military operations in Assam, an oil-and mineral-rich state of 22 million people bordering Bangladesh and Bhutan. Two soldiers and three guerrillas were wounded.

Forty-eight ULFA suspects were arrested and 179 weapons seized in the counter-insurgency drive involving an unspecified number of troops.

THE TIMES OF INDIA said troops had been moved to the border to plug possible escape routes into Burma, where ULFA cadres are believed to have been trained in guerrilla warfare.

Lieutenant-General K.S. Brar, who is in charge of the operations, indicated the army drive would continue until the insurgency was curbed.

"We are not here for a picnic, but to complete the task we have been assigned," THE HINDU quoted him as saying. "If more troops are necessary, we will deploy them."

Troops would fan out into villages where ULFA cadres have retreated, he said. A list of suspected ULFA sympathisers has been prepared and their arrests would begin soon.

"We will be showing our presence all over the place," Gen. Brar said.

ULFA has been blamed for a series of killings and kidnappings of well-chosen targets in Assam, whose

elected government was dismissed with less than a month left of its five-year tenure.

The heavily armed and efficiently organised group with a large support base has declared its goal as the creation of an independent Assam through armed revolution and the establishment of "scientific socialism," or Maoism.

Assam Extremists Arrested, One Soldier Killed

BK2911161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Assam governor has said that the state administration is ready to discuss the genuine problems of the people, but ruled [out] any talks with secessionist elements. Mr. D.D. Thakur today visited some areas in upper Assam and reviewed the law and order situation. Later, he told newsmen that security forces are continuing their operations against the outlawed ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] and have so far arrested 64 extremists. Five permanent training camps of ULFA in the upper Assam area have been demolished. A large number of ammunition and explosives have been recovered.

The official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the Army has suffered one casualty and two injured, while three extremists are reported wounded. The GOC [General Officer Commanding] in charge of the Eastern Command, Lieutenant General, Mr. S.K. Brar, while talking to newspersons in Guwahati, has said that the Army will carry out combing operations using minimum forces to flush out all the extremists.

The state government has convened a meeting of traders tomorrow to discuss measures to control prices of essential commodities which have gone up considerably during the last few months because of transportation problems. Given the present status of the implementation of the Assam accord, the spokesman said an action plan has been drawn up to set up another oil refinery in the state and a detailed project report has already been prepared. Rehabilitation package for reopening the Ashoka Paper Mill, Jogighopa, has been finalized and some funds have been sanctioned for the purpose. The spokesman said some other economic schemes for the state identified for speedy implementation include gas pipeline and the thermal project, Katalbori, and reactivation of the Brahmaputra Board and its flood control activities. An action plan for early completion of border roads and border fencing has also been prepared by the state government.

Government Issues Warning to Assam Strikers

BK3011044690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 90

[Text] In Assam, the state government has issued instructions to ensure the normal functioning of all the offices today in view of the bandh [strike] called by the Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] and the All Assam Students' Union [AASU]. In a statement in Guwahati, the state government has also requested the general public to attend to their normal work and business in the greater interests of the state. In Guwahati City, arrangements have been made for special buses enabling employees to go to their places of work. The government has warned that strict action will be taken against those who try to obstruct or intimidate others while going to attend their duties.

The state government has, however, ordered the closure of all educational institutions in the state for today and tomorrow. The AGP and the AASU have given a call for the bandh in protest against the imposition of president's rule and the implementation of the Disturbed Areas Act in the state.

The All Kachar Karimganj Students' Association has hailed the imposition of president's rule in Assam. In a statement in New Delhi, the working president of the association, Mr. Dilip Roy, described it as a right step for improving the law and order situation in the state.

Assam 'Partially Affected' by Strike

BK3011100290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, normal life in most parts of the Brahmaputra Valley districts has been partially affected following the 12-hour bundh [strike]. The bundh has been called by the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] and AASU [All Assam Students' Union] in protest against the imposition of president's rule and declaration of the state as a disturbed area. Official sources in Guwahati said vehicular traffic, except government vehicles, remained off the road. Shops, markets and business establishments in most of the urban areas, including Guwahati city, are closed. State government offices, including the state secretariat at Dispur, are, however, functioning normally. Reports say that the bundh has evoked no response in the Barak Valley and hill districts of the state.

Meanwhile, security measures have been geared up as a constant watch is being maintained on the situation.

Shekhar Urges Youth To Help Solve Nation's Ills

BK2911163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said problems cannot be solved under threat and the government will not make any compromise under the threat of bullets. Addressing the first national convention of youth and students organized by the Yuva Janata Dal-S [youth wing of ruling Janata Dal-S] in the capital, he cautioned those agitating that there is a limit which should not be crossed. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said a comprehensive package has to be worked out to improve the condition of the weaker sections of the society. He called upon the youth to harness their energy in solving various problems confronting the nation. The downtrodden should not feel neglected.

Speaking about India's relations with neighboring countries, the prime minister said we want to have peace and cooperation. India does not want to browbeat anyone, and at the same time, will not like to be browbeaten by any other country.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, said that communal passions have been aroused mainly because of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. He accused the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, of fanning the communal trouble. Mr. Devi Lal said the former prime minister had decided to implement the Mandal Commission report [on job quotas] in haste.

The Yuva Janata Dal-S has called for a sound reservation policy and adequate steps to ensure that its benefits reach those who truly deserve it. A resolution adopted after its daylong convention says that poor families belonging to so-called upper caste should also get the benefit of reservations.

Minister on Relations With Pakistan, Gulf Crisis

BK3011084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, has said India is making all efforts to improve relations with Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen at Raipur Airport, he said despite Pakistan's denial of imparting training to terrorists, New Delhi is certain that Islamabad is giving training to terrorists in that country. He said all possible steps are being taken to check infiltration of terrorists to India.

Referring to the Sri Lankan problem, Mr. Shukla said it is quite a delicate one. It will take some time to solve the issue.

About the Iraq-Kuwait problem, he said India's stand is quite clear that war should be avoided and a peaceful solution should be found to keep the territorial integrity of both the countries intact.

Government Urges Negotiated Settlement in Gulf

BK3011033090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2116 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP) - India's new government called Thursday for a negotiated settlement to avert a war in the Gulf, and renewed New Delhi's support for the Palestinian cause.

External Affairs Minister Vidya Charan Shukla said India opposed Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait which set off the crisis, but added that war was not a solution.

"India is opposed to the use of force and the acquisition of territory through military aggression," he said in a speech marking a day of solidarity with Palestinians.

"We do not believe that war offers a viable solution," Mr. Shukla said. "The crisis must be resolved through peaceful negotiations."

India, formerly a close ally of Iraq, is not a member of the U.S.-led multinational force deployed in the Gulf after the Iraqi invasion, and some critics have charged that New Delhi's condemnation of the invasion has not been forceful enough.

Mr. Shukla also cautioned the world against losing sight of the Palestinian issue, which he described as the core of tensions in the Middle East.

"The international community should not accept the demand made by some that until the Gulf crisis is settled there can be no progress in this (the Palestinian) regard," said the foreign minister, who took office on November 21.

He said the world should ensure that Israel vacated Arab territories and stopped the "flagrant denial of Palestinian rights," adding that genuine peace was not possible in the Middle East until the Palestinian problem was solved.

Mr. Shukla reaffirmed India's "consistent, firm and unequivocal support" for the palestinian fight against Israel, calling the four-year-old "intifada" movement in the occupied territories a symbol of the resurgence of Palestinian nationalism.

New Delhi, one of the strongest supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Communists To Support Shekhar on Key Issues

BK2911153390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Communist Party of India [CPI] will support the Chandra Shekhar government on certain key issues, including issues concerning communal situation and unity and integrity of the country. However, it has ruled out the question of any general support to the government. The general secretary of the party, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, told newsmen in Calcutta that a realignment of political forces in the country is now taking place following the fall of the V.P. Singh government.

Kashmir Separatists Warn 'Fake Militants'

BK2911162190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Nov 29 (AFP)—Moslem separatists warned Thursday they would hunt down and kill criminals in Kashmir guilty of murder, extortion and rape committed in the name of the militants' cause.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said in a statement here that "fake militants" were extorting money from Kashmiris, looting their property, raping women and killing for reasons that had nothing to do with separatism.

Criminals posing as separatists were acting out of personal or political reasons or "just for the fun of it," said the JKLF which is spearheading a violent struggle for Kashmir's freedom from Indian rule.

The front said it had launched a drive to identify the "fake freedom-fighters," who would be punished with death for damaging the image of the separatist movement.

One person, identified simply as Shafiq, had already been killed, it said

The warning came two days after the Hizbe Mujahideen, another anti-Indian Moslem group, appealed to Kashmiris to protect property left behind by thousands of Hindus who have fled the valley.

The appeal followed reports that abandoned Hindu homes were being ransacked and looted, and in some cases set on fire, by criminals in incidents blamed on the separatists.

More than 2,000 people have died so far this year in violence related to the 28-month-old secessionist campaign in Kashmir.

Iran

Further on Visit by USSR's Vladimir Petrovskiy

Discusses Crisis With President

LD2911182290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon received Mr. Vladimir Pertrovskiy, special representative of Soviet leader Gorbachev. Petrovskiy conveyed friendly greetings and a verbal message from Mr. Gorbachev about developments in the Persian Gulf region. He also submitted a report on the latest developments in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis, the Iraqi foreign minister's trip to the Soviet Union, and his country's views about the upcoming UN Security Council session.

Expressing concern about the present situation in the region, Petrovskiy said: We believe there is a serious threat of war in the region, which the large number of foreign forces in the region substantiates. We hope that with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the Western forces will leave the area. America has said that it does not intend to stay in the region permanently. In our view America appreciates the value of holy Islamic places.

Addressing our country's president, he said: Considering your valuable experience in international matters, particularly in resolving the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Soviet leadership would like very much to seek your views on regional developments and on preventing the outbreak of war in the area. Finally, he expressed the hope that mutual ties would improve in all areas.

Thanking the Soviet leader and the visiting delegation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed Iran's decisive stance regarding Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and the evacuation of foreign forces from the region. He said: Iran hopes that the crisis in the region will be resolved peacefully. The outbreak of war in the area would not be in the interests of any countries in the region or the world. While supporting UN resolutions, we believe that stability and security in the region should be maintained by regional countries.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the representative of the Soviet leader to convey his greetings to Mr. Gorbachev. He also welcomed the expansion and deepening of mutual ties in all possible spheres, based on agreements already reached.

Says Soviets in Gulf 'Not Practical'

LD3011130190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, left Tehran last night for Moscow after a two-day stay in Tehran, and was seen off by Mr. Mottaki.

Before leaving Tehran, in an exclusive interview with the reporter of the Central News Unit, he said, expressing his pleasure at his meetings with Iranian officials: The views of the Islamic Republic concerning the Persian Gulf crisis are of special importance to Soviet officials. We felt it necessary to become intimately acquainted with the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The officials of the two countries are united in their views in many cases. The two countries stress that Iraq's nonimplementation of the resolutions approved by the UN Security Council will result in irreparable dangers for the region. The more time that goes by, the less there is an opportunity for a peaceful settlement of this crisis.

Regarding the dispatch of forces by his country to the Persian Gulf, Mr. Petrovskiy said: We believe that Iraq should be given a last chance. At the moment, the use of Soviet forces is not a practical option. If necessary, the Supreme Soviet Presidium [shura-ye 'Ali-ye Rahbari-e ettehad-e Shuravi] will make a decision.

Regarding political and economic relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, Mr. Petrovskiy said: At the moment, relations between the two countries are following their normal course. The Soviet Union strongly believes in the implementation of the resolutions approved by the Security Council.

Referring to the recent visit of the Iraqi foreign minister to the Soviet Union, he said: In the talks which he had with the Iraqi foreign minister, it was strongly demanded that he accept the Security Council resolutions.

Ends Visit, Departs 29 Nov

NC3011065090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, special envoy of the Soviet leader, left Tehran last night. In an interview prior to his departure, Mr. Petrovskiy discussed the Soviet and Iranian insistence on the need for a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He said he had conveyed a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and expressed the hope that Iraq would immediately accept the UN resolutions and thus avert the outbreak of war in the region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Leads Friday Prayers 30 Nov

LD3011120490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] On the last day of the week honoring the Basij [mobilization forces], today the revolution people of our country attended the glorious ceremonies of Friday prayers and kept aloft the everlasting banner of Muhammad, God's peace and benediction be upon him and his companions. The ceremonies of the Friday prayers of Tehran were attended by the Hezbollah ummah on the grounds of Tehran University and its surrounding streets and were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his sermons, the president referred to the Basij as one of the emblems of the revolution and called the Basij forces the strongest and most fundamental pillar of the revolution. Further, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the various occasions during the past week, said the role of the Navy during the imposed war was very valuable and praised and thanked nurses for their services in aiding the indisposed in society.

The president pointed to the opening of the Palestine congress next week in Tehran and asked all Muslims to support the rights of the militant people of Palestine.

Continuing his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the issue of human rights and those who falsely claim to uphold human rights, especially arrogance, and said: The world is today witness to the worst crimes in the occupied territories of Palestine. The Zionists, using unacceptable means, oppress defenseless people in their own homes. On top of massacres and other crimes, by transferring Soviet Jews to Palestine they force the people to leave their homes. This is the ugliest sign of the crimes of the Zionist and their supporters. The president added: These so-called advocates of human rights have issued many (UN) resolutions in a matter of months concerning the Kuwaiti problem. They are silent when it comes to the crimes of Zionists in occupied Palestine; they have closed the matter by issuing a shallow resolution. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: These injustices will accumulate in the hearts of the justice-seeking people of the world, and one day this hatred and pent up hostility will explode.

Next, the president pointed to the recent hue and cry from the United Nations on the issue of the denial of human rights in Iran and said: According to two Western officials, the reason for these noises is because we oppose the dispatch of [Western] forces to the Persian Gulf region. The Friday imam of Tehran added: From the first moments of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent peace with Iraq, we opened two separate files. We have even told the Iraqi president in Baghdad that you should leave Kuwaiti soil and at the same time, you must honour UN Resolution 598 on peace between Iran and Iraq. [passage omitted]

The president, in his sermon on social issues, pointed to the people's inner needs, saying: Those who ignore their desires and suppress them are not on the right path and are going against nature. Those who hold no limits for people are also in the wrong. The Friday imam of Tehran stressed the importance of temporary marriages to prevent corruption in society and overcome people's carnal desires. He discouraged the restrictions that are placed on society in this matter. The president added: Islam has stressed that these desires must be fulfilled; it has also shown us the way for this fulfilment. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Criticizes UN Human Rights Report

LD2911182590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Chief of the Judiciary Yazdi completed his two-day trip to Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Provinces and left Gachsaran for Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by officials of the province.

At the end of the trip, in an interview with the central news unit, Mr. Yazdi described the outcome of his trip to Fars and Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Provinces. [passage omitted] Regarding the report of the representative of the UN Human Rights Commission, he said: Political distortions notwithstanding, the report insults not only the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also the holy religion of Islam and the Muslims. As the official responsible for the judiciary, I intend to pursue the matter via the international bureau [as heard]. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GS's Jibril Arrives for Conference

NC3011071090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by Mr. Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Middle East and African affairs.

In an interview with our reporter, Mr. Ahmad Jibril said: At this juncture, when the Palestinian nation's struggle is reaching its culmination, the upcoming conference on Palestine is of supreme importance. According to our reporter, the Palestinian conference will take place from 4 to 6 December in Tehran. It is being sponsored by our

Foreign Ministry and will be attended by experts and specialists on Palestinian affairs from Iran and other Islamic countries, as well as from Europe and Canada.

Khamene'i Urges Support for Palestinians

LD2911194290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] At a meeting with the Qom Seminary Teachers's Association and Ayatollah Meshkini, His Eminence Ayatollah Khemene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed that it is the duty of all Muslims to defend the Palestinian nation and to give all-around assistance to their just struggles. He praised the government and the nation for their valuable support in this matter and gave the necessary instructions.

During the meeting, the Palestinian issue, the crimes committed against Muslims and the holy Muslim places in Palestine by the regime occupying Jerusalem, and the silence of international organizations and proclaimers of human rights were discussed. While expressing concern about the continuation of those crimes, the members of the Qom Seminary Teachers' Association called for increasing support by world Muslims for the oppressed Palestinian nation.

Palestinian Issues Discussed on TV Program

LD2911175990

[Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1545 GMT on 29 November carries its 55-minute weekly "Political Roundtable" program, which deals with the issue of Palestine. The guests are 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister, and 'Ata'ollah Mahajerani, deputy president and chairman of the Committee supporting the Palestinian people. The program begins with the moderator's reviewing the struggle of the Palestinian people against the state of Israel, the lack of real support for them from other Arab countries, and the betrayal of their aspirations by the PLO leadership. He maintains that, at the moment, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the strongest supporter of the Palestinian people. He then refers to the intifadah and the Islamic movement of the Palestinian people against the occupying forces.

Velayati is asked to comment on the Palestinian issue. He says that ever since the dawn of Islam, the Muslims have been in control of Palestine. During the crusades, the Christians launched eight separate attacks on Palestine but were unable to wrest it permanently from the Islamic world. He then discusses the Zionist movement and the creation of the State of Israel. After the creation of the Israeli State, at first the leaders of the Palestinian movement turned toward leftist forces, but that did not succeed in uprooting the State of Israel. The leaders then turned toward compromise and surrender and political moves. That did not succeed either. At last, about three years ago, the Palestinians took the matter into their own hands and started their struggle against the occupiers.

Mahajerani then comments on the intifadah. He says that the Islamic revolution was the main inspiration for the intifadah, and they are using the same tactics which were used by the people during the Iranian revolution, such as depending on the masses and attacking security forces with bare hands.

The moderator asks if the intifadah has a single leadership. Mahajerani says there is no one like Khomeyni at the head of the intifadah, and there is no single organization leading the movement, but there are a number of Islamic groups working together.

The moderator says that there are reports that Israel is now spending more on the settlement of Soviet Jews than on its military forces. How serious a threat is this to the intifadah, he asks. Velayati says that as the movement is a popular movement it will not be affected by the emigration of more Jews to Palestine, but this does not mean that we should ignore everything that is done by the Israeli Government. It is clear that the movement of the Palestinians is an Islamic movement. At the moment, throughout the Islamic world there is a greater determination to support the Palestinians. Isrel will not be able to confront this ever-increasing movement of the Muslims of the world. The Jews who are brought to Israel do not feel that they belong there, and most of them want to go to other countries, but the Muslims inside Palestine and in the Islamic world as a whole are fighting on their own land out of their own conviction, and this cannot be weakened by the emigration of foreign Jews to Israel.

Mahajerani is asked whether the Palestinians need greater unity of action. He says there is unity of action among the Palestinians, and the movement is quite indigenous and self-motivated. The world has seen that for three years heavily-armed Israeli forces have been confronting and killing unarmed civilians, and are still not able to defeat them. He adds that in Iran the people rose up against the shah for a shorter period and the revolution succeeded. The Palestinians have been continuously fighting in difficult conditions, and are still continuing their struggle. Although there are minor differences of opinion, the people who are leading the intifadah are united, but they do not wish to be united with known Palestinian groups that await a political solution.

Velayati is asked about the reaction of Arab countries toward the Palestinian issue. He says that due to the pressure exerted on Arab governments by their own people, they have been forced to correct their stance and provide greater support for the Palestinians. One can see this in parts of Africa and in Sudan. In the future, Muslim governments will have no choice but to support the Palestinians. Otherwise, they will lose their legitimacy. The Palestinian aspiration will become the focal point of Islamic movements, as happened during the crusades, when all Islamic governments united to expel the invaders.

The moderator says that an interesting point about the intifadah is the presence of young people in the movement. How can one explain this, despite the fact that they were born under Israeli rule? Mahajerani says one can find the same thing in communist countries, where young people who were born under communism led the anticommunist movements. The Palestinians have deep-rooted hatred and animosity toward the Zionists due to all the barbaric acts of the Israeli Government, and this will be passed on from the parents to their children.

Velayati is asked about his views regarding Israel's security zones which she has created. He says Israel went into Lebanon in order to stay there, but due to the Muslim uprising she was forced to withdraw from Beirut. Then she wanted to bring the greater part of Lebanon under her control, but she was kicked out of that area too. Finally, she has set up a zone in South Lebanon 10 km deep, called it her security zone, and brought a number of Phalangist mercenaries to guard that area. They have also declared an unofficial zone where, for instance, Syrian forces are not allowed to cross. Yet Israel has failed in all its plans and these zones have not stopped the Muslims' activities.

Velayati is asked about the UN Security Council's approach toward Israel compared with its stance toward the Arabs. He replied that when Iraq attacked Iran in 1980, the United Nations did not react, but when Iraq attacked Kuwait the international organizations reacted very strongly. The same is true about Israel. As long as these attacks are in keeping with the general policies of the big powers, they do not show any reaction, but if an invasion takes place which is contrary to the designs and interests of big powers then they show a strong reaction.

Noting that Khamene'i has often stressed the need for supporting the Palestinian uprising, the moderator asks what steps has the government taken toward this end. Mahajerani replies that the majlis has passed a bill for supporting the Palestinian uprising for the liberation of Jerusalem and opposition to the Israeli Government. The Iranian Government has been told to support the families of Palestinian martyrs; the Palestinians will receive support and training in Iran; an account has been set up for donations to the Palestinian people; and radio and television should also provide propaganda support for the Palestinians. All these are part of the duties of the committee in support of the Palestinian people.

Khomeyni Meets With DPRK Defense Minister

LD2911121990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The high-ranking military delegation headed by Mr. O Chin-u, minister of the People's Armed Forces, who is in Iran for the formation of the joint Iran-North Korea military commission, accompanied by Mohsen Reza'i, chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, met this morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

At this meeting, first, the head of the North Korean Armed Forces emphasized the need for strengthening and expanding military and political relations between the two countries and added: We highly value the ethical and Islamic principles of the people of Iran. We hope for mutual relations aimed at the realization of the great goals of the two countries. The Korean nation has high regard for its friendship with Iranians. Mutual relations are not confined to the present generation; we hope that these relations may solidify day by day.

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, while expressing thanks and appreciation for North Korea's military cooperation during the war, noted: The people of Islamic Iran will always remember your kindnesses.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed that: If we are to continue the path of Imam Khomeyni, then that path is none other than struggle against American imperialism. He added: The world of arrogance spearheaded [sarkardegi] by America thinks of nothing but its own interests and never has the interests of the Muslim people of the Persian Gulf at heart. If America's intention is to defend one country, then why did it conduct military attacks against Granada and Panama?

The Islamic Republic believes that any issues that serve American interests are respected by arrogance; otherwise, the world of collective arrogance is never a supporter of human rights.

We appreciate the struggles of the people of North Korea against America and we hope to God that the two nations of Iran and North Korea may take some positive steps toward destroying the interests of America and its allies. [passage omitted]

*Editorial Details Role of USSR in Gulf

91AS0187A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Nov 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Persian Gulf Conflict: The Beginning, Not the End"]

[Text] Although news reports give credence to the proposition of a military confrontation in the Persian Gulf, it is not likely that there will be a full-scale war as long as Moscow continues to seek diplomatic ways to resolve the crisis.

Since the beginning of the Persian Gulf crisis, as peacemaker and mediator, Moscow has tried to bring its political power to bear on the Baghdad government in such a way that it distances its own image in international affairs with the statements made by the Western bloc. In the course of this, France's alignment with the Soviet Union has also strengthened Gorbachev's Middle East policy.

Despite this, while America paints images of war several times a day in the world media, it cannot risk attacking

Iraq alone without Moscow's agreement and without involving this country in a possible future battle in the Persian Gulf.

No American military action in the area leading to war has any guarantee of success without Soviet agreement. For this reason, one considers war to be imminent without a change in Soviet policy.

Soviet diplomacy and making the crisis elastic in this way has prompted America to point to its 40-year stand in Europe to show to Moscow that it is too patient to get into any war in the Persian Gulf by itself, and if necessary it is prepared to remain in the Persian Gulf for years.

On the other hand, to change world public opinion and actually to thwart Moscow's diplomacy, America has shown both sides of the coin at once, war and peace.

America has been keeping a great force in readiness in the Persian Gulf region, and on the other hand the words "diplomatic solutions" are being heard in statements from Washington's officials.

In his latest comments, the American President George Bush said concerning the crisis in the region that to resolve it he prefers a diplomatic solution based on the United Nations economic sanctions.

The political maneuvering by Washington and Moscow indicate that despite the end of the cold war and the closer ties between America and the Soviet Union, in the new era of superpower relations competition has appeared in a new way.

In any case, the Soviet Union is making every effort so that by maintaining its international popularity, retaining its ties with Iraq and strengthening its new ties with the nations to the south of the Persian Gulf, it will get an opportunity to have a warm-water port. However, will America be able to repeat the post-World War II period and remain in the Persian Gulf for a long time, as it did in its 40-year stay in Europe?

*Farahani Commentary on Future of Gulf Conflict

91AS0197A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Oct 90 pp 1, 11

[Commentary by Reza Darestani-Farahani entitled, "The Future of the Persian Gulf Conflict"]

[Text] Three months after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the basic question remains, what will be the outcome of this crisis?

In answer it must be said: The Persian Gulf crisis revolves around four specific scenarios:

1. Compromise between America and its allies and Iraq and reaching a peaceful solution, so that Iraq will either obtain specific concessions for its invasion of Kuwait, or at least it will not exit the crisis defeated and disgraced. For example, an official promise might be given to Saddam Husayn to determine the future of Kuwait's "politico-geographic" future. In that case, Saddam Husayn would remain in power, and although he would not achieve many of his goals, Iraq's influence and authority in the Arab alliance and OPEC would increase and the shadow of the Ba'th party sword would continue to hover over the arab sheikhs in the area.

If we keep in mind the point that one of the most important reasons for the failure of the plan to occupy Kuwait by Iraq was Saddam Husayn's failure to capture and kill the heads of the al-Sabah family, then the main goal of any future Iraqi act and invasion against the Arab nations of the region will include the killing of the leaders of these nations.

A moderate solution to the Persian Gulf crisis would also bring gains and losses for America and its allies.

The most important gain in such a situation would be that it would be impossible for Iraq to make good on its threats to attack Israel and the oil wells of the Arabian peninsula. Likewise, American soldiers could get out of the Persian Gulf crisis alive.

The most important losses in such a situation, however, are that Iraq's military aggressive power, and consequently its threat to the interests of the West in the area would remain. Likewise, a moderate solution to the Persian Gulf crisis would bring America up against some serious difficulties in adopting a specific and lasting policy towards Iraq and the area, because America would no longer be able either to adopt its former friendly and supportive position towards Iraq or in present circumstances to end the current state of hostility towards Iraq in the area.

2. The second scenario regarding this crisis would be for Saddam Husayn to adopt an unexpected position with an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and this also appears unlikely. Although such a case would mean a clear defeat for Iraq, it would also include gains for the Iraqis, the most important of which would be not taking severe military strikes against Iraq's strategic and vital centers and installations. Likewise, Washington's main problems regarding Iraq and the area would remain.

3. Another possible scenario is that the Persian Gulf crisis might continue in its current vague and unresolved deadlock. This situation cannot be continued, either by America and its allies or by Iraq, because America and its allies will not tolerate for a long time the costs of keeping their large military forces in the area, especially in view of the parameters that weaken the basis for the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia, and neither can Iraq endure for a long time the economic sanctions and the international embargo.

Therefore, in the not-too-distant future, and perhaps much sooner than can be imagined, one of them (America or Iraq) will have to either pull the trigger or end the Persian Gulf crisis with a political initiative.

4. The fourth scenario for the future of the Persian Gulf crisis, which appears more likely that the others, is the outbreak of a military conflict.

This conflict could occur in three ways:

A. Iraq might launch a heavy surprise attack against American forces in the Arabian peninsula, and then attack the area's oil centers and Israel's population centers, or invade Jordan by land to bring the Iraqi army's line of fire closer to Israel.

B. American forces, along with the forces of other countries in the region under Washington's command might launch a very severe lightning attack against Iraq's vital military centers and installations and begin a land attack on Kuwait.

C. A military attack on Iraq through a new Security Council resolution legalizing collective international action.

Of course such a proposition for the Soviet Union, France, and China has to do with all the Arab lands of the Persian Gulf, yet other than in Iraq these three countries did not have a significant role and presence in the past in dividing up the existing wealth and interests in these lands, and in view of the fact that it is quite unlikely that America and England would be willing to divide up their interests in the area, it is unlikely that such a thing would happen.

Along with this, one must keep in mind the important role of the Soviet Union and to some extent France in persuading Baghdad to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait. The Russian and the French see a military defeat for Iraq as a significant blow against their investments in Iraq, but at the same time it is quite likely that America and the Arab nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council would pay Moscow and Paris compensation for interests lost in an Iraqi defeat in the Persian Gulf crisis. In any case, Yevgeni Primakov's failure to advance the Security Council's "carrot and stick" strategy shows that powers such as the Soviet Union and France are moving closer to military action against Iraq every day.

It appears that despite the dangers a military conflict in the area entails, the Americans will not be willing to accept anything less than an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and if Saddam and the Ba'th party[1] do not accept this, war will break out over Kuwait.

Likewise, despite the fact that the Americans, and more than them the Israelis, dreamed of making long-term or permanent use of the Ba'th Party to keep Iraq up against the huge forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it appears that now all the major American strategists have concluded that Washington has no choice other than to defeat and destroy Iraq's threatening capabilities.

Here it may be explained that the real and calculated plans of the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran and especially the wise guidance of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, created conditions from the start of the crisis and even before it began so that the Israeli regime's strategy to perpetuate the hostility between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq or to keep up the level of the conflicts between Iran and the other nations of the Persian Gulf area cannot succeed, and with God's help the way will be found to advance the strategy for liberating Jerusalem and defeat Zionism, even after the Persian Gulf crisis is over.

Footnote: In light of the Persian Gulf crisis, it is also possible that Saddam Husayn will be eliminated by the internal forces of the Ba'th Party.

*Commentary Opposes Geographical Change

91AS0190A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
17 Oct 90 p 22

[Commentary by Parviz Ra'ufmanesh: "The Necessity of Resisting Political Geographical Change of the Area"]

[Text] The Soviet IZVESTIYA news agency announced that in the negotiations with Primakov, the Soviet envoy to Baghdad, Saddam Husayn has discussed the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from parts of Kuwait. In this plan, the withdrawal is conditional on Iraq retaining parts of Kuwait, including Warbah and Bubiyan at the mouth of the Arvandrud along with the al-Rumaylah oil zone.

Although the above report was denied on Sunday, 9 October 1990, by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the Iraqi information minister, because it was widely reported in the press, a few points should be made about it.

1. Essentially, raising and denying such news can indicate the instability of the aggression and the effect of international pressure on the aggressor, any aggression in which withdrawal is halted on the basis of a supposition (the analysis of the above-mentioned report) is in fact a request for official recognition of the aggression and shall bring along with it the stabilization of the aggressor.

2. If such plans materialize, certainly problems will be faced with regard to the prevention of Iraq's future aggressions or those of any powerful regime, which will result in nothing less than compromising world security. Hence, taking a position against the aggressor must continue in order to prove that aggressive policies will bring about no results, in the same way that the eight-year operation of Iran in sacred defense made the aggressor fail in its goals completely.

3. Certainly, stability in the geo-political situation has been one of the strategic principles in safeguarding the security of the Persian Gulf region, and serious opposition to any change in that situation must be one of the joint policies of all the countries of the Persian Gulf region, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Obviously, the small size of the change cannot be an acceptable reason to negate the above-mentioned strategic principle. And in fact, the items mentioned in the

news that was denied by Iraq (the islands of Warbah and Babiyan and the Rumaylah oil region) make up quite a vast area.

4. It is possible that Iraq's intention in "raising and denying" such news is to test the situation and evaluate the international reactions to such proposals. What is necessary in countering this possibility is the strong opposition of all the countries, particularly those in the Persian Gulf region, to such proposals in order to eliminate the possibility of this plan being proposed again in the future.

5. Finally, the implementation of such proposals is certainly in open contradiction to our "national interests" and can by no means be acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran as the strongest country in the region.

Therefore, it is necessary that the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to emphasize its position of regarding the unconditional and full departure of Iraq from Kuwait and also the departure of foreigners from the Persian Gulf region as the only realistic solution and point out that if a change in the geo-political situation of the region is prescribed by the countries in the Persian Gulf region and the international community, Iran will also retain the right to change this geo-political situation within the framework of its own national interests.

*Commentary on Internal Discord, Imam's Line

91AS0190B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Nov 90 p 2

[Commentary by the political service editor: "Domestic Factionalism and Ideological Touchstones"]

[Text] In the past two months, the elections for the Assembly of Experts became an excuse for internal factions, particularly in the Majles, to bare all and exhibit a museum of generalizing, contradictory, insulting, empty, factional, and other statements to the people. Although this stage in the discord between the internal factions apparently ended with the speech of the leader and the request of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, to conclude these discussions, it seems that for the future, and also as a warning to the factions, it is necessary to point out certain issues so that firstly we can better understand the ideological lines of the internal forces of the regime and secondly so that we do not commit any action that would be detrimental to the general interests of the regime and the goals of the imam.

1. The line and path of the imam can be drawn along the following important, fundamental indices: (a) the principle of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], which comprises the ideological and political structure of the regime and is the main touchstone for the legitimacy of governments; (b) protection of the Islamic Republic and its interests as the main gain of many years of struggle by the people and the imam and the only system born in recent centuries on the basis of Islamic ideas throughout the world; (c) delineating the principles and foundations of pure Mohammadan Islam and American Islam, and carefully drawing the line between the two. Pure Mohammadan Islam was actualized by such distinguishing features as fighting heathenism, fighting injustice, fighting oppression, fighting decisively and uncompromisingly against the United States, defending the goal of liberating Jerusalem, opposing capitalism and love of comfort, opposing stone-age attitudes and pretensions to be religious in the theological schools and universities, opposing disunity, and living simply, which were all manifested in the actions of the imam.

The path of the imam is manifested in the above indices, and anyone who claims to support the imam and his lofty ideas must remain loyal and obligated to all of them.

2. Aside from the position of leadership as the religious guardian [vali-ye faqih] and in addition to the legal role of that position and being at the top of the Islamic regime, the final interpretation of the path and ideas of the imam is also the duty of the grand leader. If interpretations of the ideas and path of the imam differ and it is impossible for all the factions to reach an agreement, the final word must be heard from the grand leader, because as the religious and secular leader and religious guardian, his opinions and judgments are final.

3. Some are inclined to present and address the internal factions in terms of forms common in the Eastern or Western societies. Recently in BAYAN (Mehr and Aban 1369 [23 September-21 November 1990] issue) the internal factions were categorized as radical, moderate, and right, and the writers of this publication have tried to present the so-called radical faction as loyal to the imam's line and the others as opponents of the imam's line. Such classifications made on the basis of improper ideological standards are neither without precedent nor without harm. They are not unprecedented, because in the past some of the internal forces who have now left the political scene had raised them and at that time faced the imam's vehement opposition, because such expressions of opinion, from the imam's perspective, follow the propaganda of the enemy, the intention of which, in speaking in terms of extremists and moderates, is to create a gap in the forces loyal to the revolution. And it is harmful to make such classifications, because in the least it will create differences and at most conflicts and discord.

4. In accordance with Islam and the actions of the imam, "faith" and "proper action" are the touchstones for the evaluation of the actions of individuals and factions. Faith, in particular what we mean by it, is to have strong belief in the path, views, and thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, and proper action in this age is manifested in following the dictates of the imam's ideas, in other words, practical obligation to velayat-e faqih and placing the interests of the regime above individual and factional interests and, finally, defending pure Mohammadan Islam in words and deeds. Those who appear to be leftist in slogans and in actions and in individual living turn to the right cannot be truthful defenders of the imam's beliefs. How can those who place their party, group, and even individual interests

above the interests of Islam and the revolution claim to follow the line of the imam? And finally, despite the religious and legal position of the leader and despite the frequent emphasis of the imam on the need to support the principle of velayat-e faqih, how could those who refuse to feel obligated to practice his views consider themselves the exclusive representative of the imam? Claiming support for the line and path of the imam is only possible through belief in its important and essential principles and foundations, which we have enumerated.

5. Factionalism did not have a place in the ideas of the imam. His actions and position and the charter of brotherhood in particular verify this claim. The imam would make use of anyone who could serve the revolution and sincerely help the people and Islam, even if the tastes and opinions differ between those forces. Factional views drag individuals into defending ugliness and untruth in their own factions and ignoring the good and the points of strength in the opposing faction. The obligation to defend one's faction causes an empty and noisy element to drag others behind himself and take advantage of other people's simplicity. Also, factionalism requires not considering the rival faction as sincere and sound, whereas the imam saw the internal factions of the regime as serving Islam and the revolution and wanted opposing factions to behave properly towards each other and the revolution. In the charter of brotherhood, the imam considers the views of two factions against each other to be false and says: "If the gentlemen look at the issues from the perspective that everyone wants to support the regime and Islam, many of the problems and much of the confusion will be resolved. This does not mean that all people must follow one faction or another."

While presenting our interpretation of the imam's thoughts, particularly in regard to the internal factions dealing with each other, we ask all internal forces to base their actions on the path of the imam and, by practical obligation to velayat-e faqih, not to look at issues from the narrow angle of factional and group interests and to defend in words and deeds the Islam of the barefoot of the earth.

*Islamic Sects Reconciliation Council Convenes

91AS0190D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The fourth Islamic unity conference, entitled reconciliation between the Islamic sects, was opened yesterday afternoon on the anniversary of the birth of the prophet of Islam (God bless him and grant him salvation) in the 'Allameh Amini hall at the University of Tehran with the participation of 700 domestic and foreign thinkers, experts, and Islamic scholars residing in Iran.

In the opening ceremonies of this conference, attended by 700 domestic and foreign Islamic thinkers and experts residing in Iran, religious personalities, Friday imams, and Shiite and Sunni groups throughout the country as well as university professors, Ayatollah Jannati, a member of the Council of Guardians, made a speech offering congratulations on the birthday of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and Imam Ja'far Sadeq (peace be upon him) and asked the Islamic sects to neutralize the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam through more unity and cooperation.

Pointing out the importance of unity among Muslims, he said: We must employ all in our power to strengthen unity, because the growth of human society has shown that the elimination of conflicts is possible through unity.

In this conference, Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi, a teacher in the Qom theological center, explained the philosophy of unity and what motivates it.

He said: One of the essential steps which have been taken in the Islamic Republic is the proper initiative of unity week, during which days all Islamic sects honoring the birthday of the greatest and highest messenger of religions in the work emphasize unity among themselves.

Pointing out the elements that cause disunity and differences among Muslims, Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi asked the Muslims of the world to avoid disunity through unity, cooperation, and coordination on a common course.

He mentioned one of the factors in attaining unity as making the people aware and carrying out cultural tasks on a broad scale. In these ceremonies, one of the Islamic poets recited a poem about the birth of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) of Islam and the necessity of unity among Muslims.

Report on the Second Day of the Unity Conference

The fourth unity conference began the second day of its annual meeting with a speech by Ayatollah Jannati, a member of the council of Guardians and head of propaganda for Islamic unity, and continued with the speech of Mowlavi Gholam Hoseyn Mohebbi, a Sunni cleric from Sistan va Baluchestan.

Explaining the issue of unity, he pointed out that today the blessed birthday of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) has called Muslim people to a great blessing, and the victory of the Islamic world will certainly safeguard security for Muslims.

The speaker continued: Islamic unity began in Iran once again with the call of the Imam and under the auspices of Islam and the Koran and can revitalize our values.

The third speaker of this morning session of the conference was Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the advisor to the minister of foreign affairs, who spoke on propaganda and government.

He warned about the poisonous propaganda of the West against the Islamic world and emphasized the necessity of forming a united nation to confront the threats of the enemies.

Larijani considered the actualization of a united nation to be the result of self-sacrifice, organization, and calculations and, in regard to the organization of Muslims, proposed an assembly of the political, military, and economic thinkers and prominent people to be formed for securing a united nation.

Explaining the reasons for the fall of Marxism, the advisor to the foreign minister cited materialism as the foundation of the fall of this ideology.

In conclusion, he pointed out that reconciliation of the ideas of Muslims shall become a large tree some day, which will cast its shadow over the Islamic world.

Other speakers of the conference this morning were Mortazavi, the spokesman of the representative council of the unity party of Afghanistan; Ayatollah Jannati, a teacher in the Qom theological center; and Seyyed Mohsen Hoseyni, the Friday imam of Kamyaran, from Kurdistan Province.

*Additional New Appointments Announced

Reza Zohdi

91AS0225E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Economic Service—The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad reports that in an order from Hamid Kalantari, the deputy minister of the reconstruction jihad for social affairs, the former prisoner of war, brother Reza Zohdi, who has returned to the Islamic homeland after seven years' imprisonment, has been appointed director of press and publications and has assumed his duties.

Branch Chiefs; Others

91AS0225f Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] As proposed by the head of the Tehran Awareness Office and as approved by the deputy sheriff for prosecution and investigation, new chiefs have been appointed for seven branches and assumed their duties.

The names of those appointed are as follows:

1. Colonel Mohammad 'Ali Keyhani, Shemiran Branch
2. Colonel Javad Behjati, West Branch
3. Major Gholam'abbas Heydari, East Branch
4. Colonel Baqeri, Branch 16
5. Colonel Kalantari, Branch 14
6. Colonel Hejazi, Branch [missing].
7. Colonel Kho'iniha, Branch 3

In orders from Engineer Tabataba'i, the deputy minister of housing and acting director of the Urban Lands Organization, Biyuk Sarminiya was appointed general manager of organization assets, and Reza Foruzandeh has been appointed general manager of urban lands of Tehran Province.

*USSR Rail Transport Agreement Announced

91AS0190C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Oct 90 p 2

[Interview with Engineer Mohammad Sa'idi-Kiya, minister of roads and transport, by the media on 16 October 1990; place not specified]

[Text] **A direct Tehran-Moscow and Moscow-Tehran passenger train will begin operation next Dey [22 December-20 January] with three cars. These cars have been placed at the disposal of the Islamic Republic by the USSR with the option to purchase for 10 years. This number will increase to nine cars in the future.**

Engineer Mohammad Sa'idi-Kiya, the minister of roads and transport of our country, yesterday noon in a press, radio, and television interview made the above announcement and explained the results of his visit to the USSR and negotiations with the officials of that country.

First pointing out that the traffic of Iranian trucks to transport imported goods will begin in the next few weeks on the Astara-Baku route, he added: The creation of a passenger bus line from Tehran to Baku has also been agreed to in the negotiations between the two sides.

The minister of roads and transport then mentioned the establishment of the second Aeroflot flight to Tehran, the agreement for the HOMA [Iran National Airways] flight through Soviet air space to China, and the leasing of a "Pak-42" airplane for three months as part of the air transport cooperation between the two countries and added: This airplane, which can transport 100 persons, will be delivered to Iran within two months, and if it is suitable to the atmospheric and flight conditions of the country, it will be purchased from the Soviet Union.

In conclusion, he declared the transit of Iranian trucks through the USSR, the opening of the Sarkhas border to the import of goods, the adding of another ship to the joint Iran-Soviet shipping line in the Caspian Sea, the purchase of 200 cars from the Soviet Union, the start of studies of the Mashhad-Sarkhas railroad and participation in the construction of the Mashhad-Bafeq railroad as among the other signs of cooperation between the two countries.

*Oil Agreement Reached With Bulgaria

91AS0225B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Our country's minister of agriculture and the head of the joint commission with Bulgaria, who are in Sofia for the seventh Iran-Bulgaria joint commission, met yesterday with Zhelyo Zhelev, the president of Bulgaria.

At this meeting, the Bulgarian president expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation between the two countries and called for its expansion in various economic, commercial, and industrial areas.

He also said: Relations between Iran and Bulgaria are long-standing and traditional; we count on full friendship with Iran and we place a special importance on it.

This report adds: In turn, Dr. Kalantari, our country's minister of agriculture, described the seventh joint commission between the two countries as fruitful and said: We obtained good results in this commission, and we seek as much growth and expansion as possible in cooperation between the two countries in all areas.

Dr. 'Isa Kalantari also met with Belgian Prime Minister Lukanov.

Quoting the BULGARIAN NEWS AGENCY, BBC announced: In these meetings it was decided that Iran will deliver 800,000 tons of oil to Bulgaria.

Half of this oil will be delivered this year, the other half in the beginning of 1991.

Concerning the export of Iranian natural gas to Bulgaria, this report adds: There is the possibility of agreement between the two sides in this area, and it depends on the Soviet agreement to permit Iranian gas to be exported through its gas pipelines. It is worth mentioning that after Soviet oil exports to Bulgaria were stopped and the economic embargo against Iraq, last week the government of Bulgaria announced that the distribution of gasoline will be rationed.

*Computerization Planned for Bank Branches

91AS0225D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Oct 90 p 22

[Text] Mehabad—All branches of the nation's banks are to be equipped with computerized systems.

Jamshidi, the acting director of Sepah Bank and a member of the National Banking Council, announced the above in an interview with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. He added: With the implementation of this project, whose preparations have been made, customer bank transactions will be done in the shortest possible time.

Jamshidi had gone to West Azarbaijan to inspect branches of the Sepah Bank. He added: To value the former prisoners of war and war veterans, this year 20 percent of the new hirings will be reserved for the former prisoners of war, and 2,000 war veterans will be hired at the branches of this bank in the current year.

He added: This year there are 36 large projects under construction in the country, including six cement factories and hundreds of small projects, using financing from Sepah Bank. When these projects go into operation in addition to expanding the economy, thousands of people will be employed.

Satellite Station Commissioned in Bastak Suburbs

LD2711120790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A satellite ground station in Zangard and Chahbenard, in the suburbs of Bastak in Bandar-e Lengeh, was commissioned. According to the report of the Central News Unit, with the commissioning of this satellite station, from now on the people in those villages will be able to watch the programs of Channel 1 of the Vision [Television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran on station five. Work for the installation and commissioning of this satellite ground station has been carried out by the engineers and experts of the television and FM transmitter units, and the installations unit of the Voice and Vision [radio and television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Persian Gulf center.

IRNA Correction to 600 Iraqi POW's Released

LD2711133290

IRNA supplies the following correction to the item headlined "600 Iraqi POW's Released Since 22 November," published in the 28 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 60:

Column two, paragraph two, only sentence, make read: ...war have been unilaterally released and returned.... (inserting word "unilaterally")

Nepal

Nine Injured Protesting Death of Leftist Activist

BK3011104090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 30 (AFP)—Nine people were injured, three critically, when police opened fire on protestors in Baglung late Thursday, the Home Ministry said.

The incident in the township located 260 kilometres (160 miles) west of Kathmandu erupted when local people were protesting the death of leftist activist Krishna Prasad Shrestha in police custody, a Home Ministry source said Friday.

More than 8,000 people encircled the district police station chanting anti-police slogans and demanding a fresh probe into Mr. Shrestha's death on October 11, the day after his arrest.

Police opened fire on the mob, leaving nine people injured, three seriously.

The protestors said the interim government was not taking action against the superintendent of police, who the residents suspect was involved in the case.

The demonstrators charged that Mr. Shrestha had been tortured and that Home Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay, who visited Baglung, had protected the officer instead of taking action against him.

Baglung residents, led by former Panchayat Minister of State Tejendra Bahadur Khadka, marched through the town carrying placards demanding the death penalty for the police superintendent and the home minister, a source in Baglung reached by telephone said.

The government did not act on the findings given in a vaguely worded report by a one-man inquiry commission formed early this month, the source said.

The inquiry commission had received reports that Mr. Shrestha's death was caused by external injuries, while other reports suggested that he had committed suicide.

Baglung residents were angered by the conflicting reports and the inquiry commission's failure to produce a definitive report on Mr. Shrestha's death.

The demonstrators tried but failed to set free a young girl, whose name was given only as Kunti, who was arrested in connection with the death in the hope that she knew the real cause, reports said.

Pakistan

PRC Delegation Arrives on Nine-Day Visit

BK2911160590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] A 10-member Parliamentary delegation headed by the first vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Wang Renzhong, arrived in Karachi today on a nine-day visit to Pakistan. During its stay in Pakistan, the delegation will visit various cities and will meet Pakistan's Members of Parliament.

Aid Agreement Signed With Germany

BK3011085090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Under a financial cooperation agreement signed in Islamabad today, Germany is to give to Pakistan an assistance of 110 million marks to finance projects in all the four provinces. Of this, 60 million marks signed in the form grant and the rest is soft loan. The major projects to be financed include a (?scheme of) Afghan refugees related income generating schemes in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Balochistan and a general scheme to combat water logging in Dera Ghazi Khan.

Germany has been extending economic assistance to Pakistan since 1961 which to date amounts to 5.4 billion marks. The assistance has been utilized in strategic sectors as well as balance-of-payment support.

Sri Lanka

State Chief Urged To Probe LTTE Arms Factory

BK2911080190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0454 GMT 29 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday suggested that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi should probe a little more deeply into the story that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] run textile and small arms factories in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Wijeratne said he was ready to accept Mr. Karunanidhi's denial of his (Mr. Wijeratne's) charge, but, he said, in view of earlier experience of the central government denying militant training camps and the current controversy between Mr. Karunanidhi and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it would be better for Mr. Karunanidhi to probe a little more, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Soldiers Deceive LTTE During Mankulam Attack

BK2911101690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0814 GMT 29 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—The withdrawal of soldiers from the Mankulam camp, when they came under attack from Tiger [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE] terrorists, had been so swift and successful that Tigers had kept on attacking the abandoned camp for six hours ignorant of the fact that there wasn't a single soldier left there, the DAILY OBSERVER reports.

More officers and soldiers from Mankulam camp, who made contact with reinforcements sent to their assistance, arrived at the security force camp in Vavuniya yesterday afternoon.

According to a security source, who did not want to divulge details, quite a large number of soldiers and officers carrying their weapons arrived in Vavuniya yesterday. He was optimistic that the rest of the groups, who are out in the jungles making their way back would make contact with reinforcements, who were rushed towards Mankulam from several directions.

The Air Force is assisting the soldiers on the ground in the search for the defenders of Mankulam, who were forced to make a withdrawal from their camp, when the terrorists launched a heavy attack on them on the night of 22 November and continued for well over two days.

According to Defence State Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, 273 soldiers had left the camp from the 299 which comprised the total number in the camp at the time of attack. The rest are believed to be casualties.

LTTE dead in the attack are reported to be well over 220 and over 250 are reported to be critically wounded.